

Breaux Act
Coastal Wetlands Planning,
Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting

October 13, 2004

9:30 A.M.

LA Department Of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Room
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

[NOTE: The first 15 minutes of the meeting were not recorded.]

MS. GAY BROWNING:

We did really well with our obligations this year and I'd just like to say thank you to all the people that helped us obtain our obligation. I know many people were very tired of signing Government Orders and everything. We were able to raise our obligations to date to approximately 500 million dollars. Now we are told that we have to get busy with expenditures also. So, that will be the next thing that we have to work on. Page 9 and I believe there has been a revised sheet put into your binders. If the yellow block at the bottom of the page, it should be \$3.5 million available funds. We had a few changes with estimate changes just recently that this page was revised. That is the money going into what the CRMS, O&M increases, and all the incremental funding for cash flow projects including the Corps admin and also monitoring and O&M. With everything being requested, it's approximately 147 million dollars. If everything were approved, we would be approximately 73 million dollars short, so choices will have to be made. There is a starting/completion schedule starting on Page 19. We had five projects started in FY04. It's various miscellaneous reports but the summary report for everyone's project begins on 27 through the remainder of the tab. Also, if there are no questions, Julie LeBlanc will present more of a status on Breaux Act funds.

MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

Okay. Everybody should have a copy of the Power Point presentation in their binders. What I'm going to do here is go through a more detailed status like we did at the April Task Force meeting and then also -- do you have it in your binders? It's at the end of the tab.

I'm going to talk about two things this morning. The first thing is to give you an overall status of funding in the program and I've got three different graphs I'm going to show. I'm not going to go over the details here because I'm going to get into as I go through each of those graphs. Then, after that, I'm going to introduce the interactive funding spreadsheet that will be used during the meeting as the funding decisions are made so that the Task Force can know how much

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money is available in the program as the decisions are made to fund projects and to fund items on the agenda.

This first graph, what we are looking at here, and I'm going to leave it up here for a second because the next page actually has a description. The overall funding limits of the program should be considered when approving projects for construction. Once a project begins construction, the program should provide operation, maintenance, and monitoring for the 20 year project life. That means, well, actually the PPL1-8 projects have funding for 20 years already set aside. But those projects that are on 9-13 that have been approved for Phase II, only have money for initial construction plus the first three years. We are trying here to give an overall look at the program to see where we will be through 2009, which is where the red line is, the total funding Federal and non-Federal into the program of just over one billion dollars. And then we're showing to date the projects that have been approved prior to now, if we look at the fact that we will fund 20 years of operation, maintenance and monitoring for all projects that have started construction, the program is at \$713.6 million. The gap between those two is approximately \$300 -- \$293 million.

If we look and take a step over to this first bar, the 20 year cost for the five projects that are currently being recommended by the Technical Committee for construction funds at this meeting totals around \$38 million in total cost. That reduces the gap, as you can see, here to \$255 million from that overall ceiling in the program. Just as a what if scenario I included this, if the Task Force were to approve all projects that are currently up for funding today, which they cannot do because we don't have '05, '06, '07, '08, and '09 funds, the programs still would not hit the ceiling if we were to approve those additional seven projects. You can see there would be around 121 million dollars left, considering through '09 funds.

Looking at the schedule for the next funding cycle, September/October '05, there are 18 projects currently, and this is the last bar on the graph. And that actually breaks the bank by over 250 million dollars, if those projects were to come forward in the next year. This is just an

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explanation I went through on both of those.

The next graph is showing the blue line, that's wiggling around up there, is showing the cumulative funds into the program from '92 through 2004. The green bars are showing the cumulative obligation year by year. And you can see that in '03 where we were, and then we jumped up, as Gay mentioned, and obligated a lot of money in '04. The unobligated balance is shown as the peach bar. And you can see in '04 we ended at \$87.5 million. You can see that each year we carry over unobligated funds. For instance, in '03, it's \$208.6 million that we carried over. At the close of '04, however, we are now at \$87.5 million unobligated carry-over. And I will mention that that is the lowest that the program has been since '95. So almost ten years ago we had the same unobligated balance in the program.

Okay. The next graph. Again, we're showing total cumulative funds in the program, and it's only for the last five years. This matches that last graph that you saw. The cumulative program funds, that's the funding that is set aside as approvals are made, are shown as the yellow bars and you can see year by year. The unencumbered funds, this is the dollar amount when Gay says: how much money do you have in the program? This is the dollar amount that Gay quotes. We closed FY03 at around \$60 million unencumbered or un-programmed funds, and we closed '04 at around \$3.5 million. So there is a difference between unobligated funds and unencumbered funds meaning there's a lag between those two numbers. This is showing that lag. So although in '04 we had 3.1 million dollars in unencumbered funds or unspoken-for funds that had not been set aside, the program carried over \$87.5 million. And that is because there is a lag in time between when agencies get approval for the money and when they actually request it. And you can see in past years, that number's been around \$150 million for the past four years prior to FY'04, and we're around \$84 million at the close of FY'04. So we are closing that gap.

In summary, the program, from the first graph we saw, is in pretty good shape relative to meeting the 20 year commitment on projects that have been approved for construction. And that's for all PPL1-8 where the money's already set aside. Plus 9 through 13, when they're

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approved for Phase II, we're assuming that the money should also be set aside for construction since the project is already beginning construction and we're committed to providing the O&M for the 20 years. The actual obligation lag of funding approval year after year, as I mentioned on the last slide, the average was around 150 million dollar lag each year in 2000 to 2003 and we've reduced that amount in 2004. On the set aside funds, or the program funds, in the past there's been a larger amount of unencumbered funds, hence anything that came forward, there was no problem funding. And recently the program execution has caught up with that set aside dollar amount.

Any questions on the funding before we move into how we're going to work the interactive spreadsheet during the meeting?

MIGUEL FLORES:

Colonel, if I may?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Sir.

MIGUEL FLORES:

First of all, I think this is an excellent presentation. And I think that perhaps we might consider just -- with respect to a budget update in the future, that maybe you might just do what you just did. No offense Gay, but you know, I know you do a lot of work and I looked at those spreadsheets quite a bit. But I think with respect to giving us an update, I think this is a lot more, I guess, revealing.

One thing that I would ask, that perhaps in the future we might consider adding expenditures through some of those graphs as to where we are. You know we have other obligated funds, maybe -- I was looking at where we were with respect to some of the PPL lists and where we are with expenditures. And in some of the areas we're doing quite well and in other PPLs we're not.

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You know, we're lagging far behind. And I know Gay mentioned that so perhaps since we're going to be focusing on expenditures, maybe that's something we might want to consider.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Any other comments from the Task Force?

JULIE LEBLANC:

The next two items, or the next two slides, this first one, you should have a copy of this under Tab 10; it looks like this, just like the one that's up on the screen. And I'm going to step you through how this is going to work. We actually have it as a spreadsheet version on the computer where we can keep a running total during the meetings. And what we're looking at here is the available unencumbered balance as of today, 3.5 million dollars -- that's a little bit different than the number we went into at the Tech Committee Meeting -- anticipated Federal funding into the construction program in '05, \$57.4 million. That totals 60.93 million dollars, Federal balance in the program. And as we go through each of the agenda items we can have a dollar amount set aside for PPL14 Phase I, the next slide addresses that. And I may let Chris Monnerjahn talk about that one. And then as we go through each of the agenda items; number 6, the O&M funding increases; as the Task Force approves the number, we'll put that number in here; Corps administrative costs, project specific monitoring, and then the CRMS request. That will give us a number in this box, which we will be able to move into agenda item 10 with. This list, all ten - - excuse me, all 12 of the projects that are up for requests for either construction approval or Phase II authorization. It shows the Phase II Increment I requested amount. It also shows the Federal portion. That's what we will be subtracting from here. And as we put in a yes vote here, it will then change this bottom line number to show how much funding is left in the program. The items that are shaded in blue are included in the Technical Committee's recommendation. Just for your information.

This next slide shows some more updated information that I think we just compiled yesterday, so it should be new to everyone. Looking at the PPL 14 candidate projects, we have -- Chris would

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you like to talk about that?

CHRIS MONNERJAHN:

No, you can go ahead.

JULIE LEBLANC:

The six candidate projects are shown here, the estimated fully funded Phase I cost. This not a final number, it has not gone to the Economic Workgroup as of yet. But you can see the dollar amounts range from \$969,000 to \$3.2 million for Phase I costs. The average Phase I cost is about \$1.6 million. If we take the four most expensive PPL14 candidates, it's around \$7.2 million. Assuming that the Task Force would also want to allocate some funding for demos, and that number can be changed. We just threw in a number of \$2 million since that's the maximum that the Task Force has expressed in the past for approving. Just to let you know too, we have seven candidates for demonstration projects. That adds up to \$9.4 million. The dollar amount that the Technical Committee has in their spreadsheet as a holder, was \$9 million. We don't have this as a discussion item for the Task Force, but we will have to put in a dollar amount into that spreadsheet on how much money the Task Force would want to set aside for Phase I funding of PPL14 in January of '05.

And I will show you where it goes in here. We would put whatever dollar amount, as I said, the Tech Committee has the nine million dollar hold right here for that for PPL14. But given this information, y'all may want to come up with another number. Any questions on those two sheets?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any discussion? All right. Thank you. Next agenda item is item number 4.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Can I ask a question before you --

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COLONEL ROWAN:

Sure. Go ahead.

RANDY HANCHEY:

The specific projects that were listed there under Phase I, assuming to be approved I guess, next year. Where did those projects come from? How did -- you know some of these, this is the first discussion I've heard about these particular projects.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. If you want to go in -- are those at Phase I been through the Technical Committee yet or is that upcoming activities --

JULIE LEBLANC:

The Technical Committee selected -- I think we started with 11 nominees, and the Technical Committee selected six candidate projects. These projects will then be up for consideration by the Technical Committee for recommendation of the Task Force for up to four projects in December of this year, for final approval by the Task Force in January.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Right. And this is the standard development of the PPL lists. This is the first time you've seen that list as they come forward though the process.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Do we have a list in this eleven hundred page document somewhere? I mean do we have that?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Not at this time, because I believe it's not on the agenda for the full Task Force until in January.

What you have right now is a methodology to set aside a placeholder for Phase I funding, which

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will be approved in January because we have to take that into account as we spend money during this meeting. And that's with the sequencing of the two lists or the ongoing Phase II projects versus the new PPL projects. We've got to account for that funding increment.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Yeah. I understand that. But -- and I don't have a -- I haven't found a copy of the slide that was flashed up there, and so I guess we don't have it. But the amount that we're talking about setting aside is related to those specific projects, which may or may not be the projects that really get approved for Phase I.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. I think the last page in tab 3. And while they may not be those specific projects, it's a methodology that they developed based on the development so far for coming up with a ballpark estimate of the funding requirements.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Colonel, when will we set aside funds for Phase I funding? Would we do it at this meeting or --

JULIE LEBLANC:

Yes. In order to have the available funds for a decision in January, we'll have to set aside some dollar amount. What we did was just provide the latest information which was just compiled yesterday, that shows the dollar amounts for the six candidate projects. The assumption is that the Task Force can approve up to four, so y'all can make a decision based upon this information on what dollar amount you want to have set aside so we can plug it into the spreadsheet and have that money available.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Sure. Now typically, what do these costs run, in the past? You know, historically, do y'all have a number?

JULIE LEBLANC:

I think for PPL12 and 13, the average was around \$2 million for Phase I cost. So the average here is a little bit less than the average has been in the past.

RICK HARTMAN:

The last the total was right at eight million dollars, \$7.8 million.

JULIE LEBLANC:

It's \$8.6 million that was approved for four projects and one demo.

MIGUEL FLORES:

So that runs around eight million dollars, roughly a year.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Any other discussion? You got what you need Randy or --

RANDY HANCHEY:

The only concern that I have is that these do not necessarily acquire a status that's inappropriate, given the fact that presumably they thought it was some number that's been screened down to this number. And we've got to make some assumptions about how far down it's going to be screened again. Perhaps our representative on the Technical Committee is aware of some of this.

Now, we've had a situation where we've changed representatives on the Technical Committee mid-stream, so to speak, so maybe that's part of the issue here. But I have never seen them and I don't know -- we've never had any discussion within the State about what our views are with respect to these projects. So, you know, I would have felt more comfortable had we looked at average annual Phase I funding requirements and come up with a number that way. To imply that we're going to pick a number based on what we think these particular projects' Phase I cost might be -- this causes me a little concern.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

That's noted. If the Task Force wants to line out all the project names and we'll just use these for estimating purpose of a dollar value.

RANDY HANCHEY:

You know it's useful to at least be able to get a preview of what thinking is going on at the Technical Committee level. And I don't really object to that. My caution is let's not assume that the ones we're going to approve for Phase I might even be limited to these, much less some of these may or may not get approval.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. That is, again, noted. Other discussion?

Item 4 on the agenda is planning budget and FY05 Public Outreach Committee budget. Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

Sir, our Planning Budget was presented for approval by the Task Force in two parts. The first part includes all items except outreach, which will be considered separately. Mr. Scott Wilson will follow me with the Outreach Committee's recommended budget. Our planning funding allocation is limited to five million dollars per year. Currently we have a surplus of \$688,000 from previous years based on under usage in previous years. Therefore, we have a total available of about \$5,688,000 for new obligations in this fiscal year. A detailed breakdown of the recommended first part of the overall planning budget is included in your binders, which includes a three million dollar -- 3.873 million dollar budget for core budget items, and that's core, relating to PPL14 and 15 and also the overall program and project management tasks. We also have eight other supplemental planning and evaluation tasks which amount to \$865,000.

These tasks are: academic advisory group, maintenance of web-based fact sheets, linkage of

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Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

CWPPRA and LCA study efforts, GIS support, Phase 0 analysis of impact to oyster leases, media training for project managers, an update of land loss maps, and storm recovery procedures. Use of the funds for storm recovery will depend on the occurrence of storms in FY05. We have planned for up to two occurrences. If we do not have any occurrences, these funds will not be used. The Technical Committee recommends approval of the FY05 Planning Budget in the total of 4,738,129 dollars by the Task Force at this time. And then, as I said, I'll be followed by Mr. Scott Wilson who will present the remainder of the budget.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you. Scott?

SCOTT WILSON:

Thank you, Colonel. The Outreach Budget total is \$437,900, which represents approximately a 3% increase over last year's budget. The increase was in the additional personnel for agency coordination and participation into outreach activities. The budget for the Outreach portion is really broken into two sections: one is agency participation and the other part is our general operations. This budget is fairly consistent with the budgets we've presented in the last four years, and the overall total is \$437,900.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any questions on the Planning or the Outreach Budget by the Task Force Members?

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Yes, Colonel. I've got a question for John. John, you begin your explanation of the Planning Budget that we had a \$688,000 surplus. How does that show? Is what we're recommending is the \$4,738,129, is that just on top of that?

JOHN SAIA:

On top of that would be the Outreach. So the total should come out to \$511,971 available. After

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approval by the Task Force of both items we would have that remaining.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Does that total include then the surplus?

JOHN SAIA:

That would be surplus after approval by the Task Force, of the two amounts that we indicated.

So roughly, \$512,000 would remain.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other discussion?

RUSS WATSON:

Colonel I'd like to just applaud the efforts of the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee group to bring in the planning budget that's fiscally responsible. Good job and they ought to be recognized for it.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other comments on the Planning or Outreach Budgets?

MIGUEL FLORES:

Yes if I could. I guess I'm totally confused here. The recommendation was for \$4.7 million or for \$5.1 million?

JOHN SAIA:

The total recommendation for the overall Planning Budget would be the \$5.176 million. I believe it adds to with the two budget recommendations, one for the core budget and the additional items and also the outreach.

Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

MIGUEL FLORES:

And the \$511,000, that remaining will be carried over for next year's planning?

JOHN SAIA:

That's correct. That will be available for next year's surplus. It will be surplus if we go over the five million dollar figure. That could be used to supplement the five million dollar in next year's budget, for '06. Now, as I indicated, in some cases there may not be total usage of the '05 budget and any surplus would be also carried over into next year.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Perhaps at some time we may want to reconsider that.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other thoughts?

BRITT PAUL:

Colonel, are you ready to entertain a motion?

COLONEL ROWAN:

I am ready to entertain a motion.

BRITT PAUL:

I move that the Task Force approve the recommendation by the Tech Committee for the Planning Budget which also includes the Outreach Budget.

RUSS WATSON:

Second that motion.

COLONEL ROWAN:

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I have a motion and a second to approve the Planning and the Outreach Budget. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you. Item number 5 is a recommendation to restrict Phase II budget requests for projects already approved for Phase II but not yet under construction, to a cap of 100%, including contingencies. Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

Yes, sir. At the Task Force's last meeting the Technical Committee recommended that for new Phase I and Phase II projects the project estimates be capped at 100%, in lieu of 125%. This action was approved by the Task Force at the last meeting. We have now reviewed the ongoing 12 Phase II projects listed in your binders, and determined that the same 100% limit can be applied to these projects. You will note, prior to making a recommendation that we have adjusted the contingencies for certain of these projects and accordingly increased the estimates. And that's included in one of the tables in your binder. We have not yet completed our review of continuing Phase I projects and plan to report back to the Task Force at the next meeting on whether further action is recommended by the Technical Committee. At this time the Technical Committee recommends that the Task Force approve lowering the cap from 125% to 100% for ongoing Phase II projects not yet under construction.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Discussion or any questions from the Task Force? John, just to clarify, this lowering to 100% still contains a construction contingency within that estimate, correct?

JOHN SAIA:

That's correct, sir. It varies among the projects, depending on the complexity, et cetera.

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However, those contingencies have been adjusted as we reviewed the projects, and we asked each agency to provide what they felt was absolutely needed, considering we were going to recommend a change in the cap.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So past practice had us with a contingency plus 125%?

JOHN SAIA:

That's correct. And up to the 125% was set aside because it might be used. However, historically, we haven't used that amount. We've used far less than that. And so we went back to see what contingency should be included. In some cases we had projects with a 25% contingency and then another 25% given to them with the cap. And consequently, we left a lot of funds on the table and they weren't able to be used for other projects.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Mr. Hanchey?

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, it seems to me that when we originally started talking about this 25%, the reason for it was analogous to the Congressional authorization that you get for projects, that in fact you can increase the cost estimate above the authorized amount of 25% and that you got to back to the Congress for reauthorization, in essence. And I think this was done to preclude having to come back to the Task Committee and reopen the project, and in essence, getting a new reauthorization from the committee. You know, this committee meets four times a year, not like dealing with the Congress, and I don't think that -- I think that the right thing to do is, in fact, to budget for 100% that would include the fully funded cost estimate, plus an appropriate contingency. And, in fact, that as projects progress we certainly know a lot more about what kind of contingencies we need when we award a construction contract and we you are initiating design. So I think what they've done is good. Now, my only question is, is that, John, as you go through all these

Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

projects that are going to be affected by this decision, are there any that we know going in are going to have a problem? And, you know, I look at New Cut Dune Restoration at 142%. What do you with a project like that?

JOHN SAIA:

Yeah. What we have done on these projects is gone back and looked at -- and you can see we've raised some of the estimates to ensure that we would be within the estimate, as we continue. If we have a situation where we do have an increase, as you indicated, it has to go back to the Task Force for approval. As you also indicated, it's not as rigorous as going back to the Congress for approval. I don't think we'll see a problem with a situation where we would have to delay construction or anything like that. So I think we are pretty comfortable with a 100% cap.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Let me phrase my question a little differently. Now you've got three columns here --

JOHN SAIA:

Yes.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Baseline estimate, current estimate and percentage. Is the percentage the -- is that -- how did you get -- that's comparing current estimate to the baseline estimate? Is that where the percentage increase is?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Yes.

JOHN SAIA:

Yes.

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RANDY HANCHEY:

But that increase is not all due to this 25% that's been added to projects. Some of it's due to realistic estimates of what it's going to cost to build a project, right? I mean they're actually revised estimates based on --

JOHN SAIA:

That's correct. Some of them are revised estimates based on a re-look, and they have been increased. Now they stayed within the 25%, but we've adjusted them to have a new base, based on a 100% cap.

RANDY HANCHEY:

And the base is the current estimate, assuming that's been approved, as opposed to the baseline estimate; is that right?

JOHN SAIA:

That's correct. The current estimate is what we're using for the 100% cap.

RANDY HANCHEY:

So, just looking at your second chart down there where you have obviously reduced the -- I guess I don't -- that's just Phase I. The last chart. Those numbers in blue are the most current working estimates, and those estimates won't be affected by this reduction? In other words, you're not going to take the 142% on New Cut Dune and reduce that down to 100%, right?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Randy, the items that are shown in blue, that's the column that will now be capped as the 100%.

RANDY HANCHEY:

That would be the -- okay.

Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

JULIE LEBLANC:

So some of the projects have been increased in consideration of the fact that there's going to now be a cap.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Thank you very much.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Were those increases brought before the Task Force?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Any ones that were above 125%, yes. I believe there was only one project, the New Cut Project, and that one was brought before the Task Force. The rest of them were in the 125% discretion.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Are there discussions?

MIGUEL FLORES:

What was the total savings on having done this exercise now? I see some are now at 100% versus what used to do 125%, right?

JULIE LEBLANC:

It would only be a savings if a project actually asks for the additional money up to that 125%.

MIGUEL FLORES:

But it was encumbered, right? We had encumbered it, right?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Not in all cases, no. But there would be discretion to go up to the 125% and I do have that

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number from the Tech Committee meeting.

BRITT PAUL:

What I understand this does, is it allows us to have a better handle on the available funds. We went back and looked at the projects now that they've been to a certain level of design and have a better estimate. That estimate includes that construction contingency. By having that in there, now saying that's going to be capped at 100%, you don't have that unknown that you could go again to other 25%, it's capped at this level and it helps to protect our funds. Some of the slides Julie showed us earlier used those numbers to project our funds.

JULIE LEBLANC:

And what we calculated last time for these 12 projects, there would be a discretionary amount of up to 18.4 million dollars if the cap was not applied. Meaning that anyone could come in at any time and request that 18.4 million dollars.

MIGUEL FLORES:

That's the number that I want?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Correct.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Do I have a motion to accept the recommendation to restrict Phase II budget requests?

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

So moved.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Second.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion and a second. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

The motion carries. Now item number 6 is a discussion and decision regarding -- it's a Part A and a Part B discussion regarding future operation and maintenance funding for non-cash flow projects that have depleted their 20 year O&M budget, followed by consider requests for operation and maintenance funding increases on PPL1-8. The first part is an issue that I introduced because the follow on issue takes a project or two projects that were originally on a fully funded basis and those had 20 year O&M costs set aside for the life of the project. That funding has been exhausted and they have come back to the Task Force in the subsequent item on this agenda, and said we would like to increase costs or increase the funding for O&M. But the estimate that they have attached with it is only for the initial overage and then three future years of O&M cost, therefore, changing them into a cash-flow type basis. And while we may have taken an action similar to this in the past, I think from a Task Force process point of view, that we are in changing an operating mode and we need to discuss that a little bit. If there is not an objection to doing this, as long as we do it willingly and knowingly to modify the process, then I don't have an objection of us going forward with this because it may more accurately reflect how we're going to fund these projects in the future. But it is different than the method that was used to establish these projects in the first place. And I believe it requires an affirmation by the Task Force to do that. Any other discussion?

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with you that this is -- this is primarily a process issue and I think we do need to get into the record what we had intended. And frankly I thought we had done this, but, I

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support Option 2. That's the approach of a three year incremental funding of O&M, and then it would allow a piece-by-piece basis of the examination beyond that. And it would be fair to move that to get it into our record, which is consistent with the way I thought we were operating. So moved.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. I have a motion for Option 2, which is to consider requests of three year incremental funding of O&M funding on a cash-flow basis for individual projects, regardless of PPL as they come back for additional funding.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Second.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion and a second. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. That moves us to the decision part of this agenda item. Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

Based on the actions of the Task Force to approve Option 2, then I'll proceed with the recommendation of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee recommends funding for East Mud Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project O&M for \$720,000 for the period 2005 to 2007. And also recommends funding for Pointe au Fer Hydrologic Restoration Project O&M for \$215,000 for the period 2005 to 2007.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any discussion on these projects?

MIGUEL FLORES:

Excuse me, John. We may have discussed this at the last Task Force meeting. I apologize if we did. But what was -- there must have been some sort of extenuating circumstance that must have occurred that's resulted in the exhaustion of the O&M funds that's been allocated for these two projects. Can you just sort of summarize, quickly, why those original O&M funds were exceeded?

JOHN SAIA:

I'll ask Dave Burkholder, if he's here, to explain the change. Is he here?

DAVE BURKHOLDER:

I'm Dave Burkholder with the Department of Natural Resources, Field Engineering Section. I'll start with the East Mud Lake Project since it's the larger request. This project is a PPL2 project that was constructed in the late '90s. When this project was approved by the Task Force, it also incorporated an existing structure into the project. It was constructed by the Gravity Drainage District in about 1970. So when the project began, the structure was already 20 years old. This is the structure that's responsible for the majority of the funding request. It's a flap-gated culvert structure, 48-inch culvert with flap gates to stop log. When it was originally constructed, it was not supported on piling and has experienced settlement problems. We made an attempt several years ago to make some repairs. It was not successful. Settlement problems have continued, and that's the reason we're asking for the majority of the money for the East Mud Lake Project.

For Point Au Fer Hydrologic Restoration Project, that project was constructed in several different phases. It consisted of a series of plugs on the eastern side of Point Au Fer Island on the Tranco (phonetic) and Hester (phonetic) canal. It also consisted of shoreline protection along the Gulf shoreline adjacent to the Mobil canal, and an additional phase consisted of some

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extensions of that shoreline protection. The problem that we've experienced on the Point Au Fer Project has been breaching around the flood structures in the canal and breaching at various points of the shoreline protection. Those are the two major items that are responsible for the funding increases on those projects.

MIGUEL FLORES:

What was the total amount for these two projects together?

DAVE BURKHOLDER:

For our funding increase request?

MIGUEL FLORES:

No, for the Phase II costs. What were the costs of the projects, Phase I and Phase II, do you have those?

DAVE BURKHOLDER:

For East Mud Lake the original construction cost was about 1.5 million dollars. For Point Au Fer I think the total construction was about \$2.1 million, for all three Phases.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Thank you. Where I was going with that is that I think we have to -- we have what I consider a fairly sizable investment in these projects. So I think that the reason for -- I think, considering these types of requests would be because we want to protect the investment. We think these two projects really need to be continued and they are making a difference, which I believe they are. And that's why I was curious what the total cost was and the reason for why we needed increasing.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Are these anticipated to be one-time cost increases?

DAVE BURKHOLDER:

Yes, sir. The funding that we're requesting for East Mud Lake is for a maintenance event to replace that structure #4, the culvert flap-gated structure. And it also includes some additional maintenance work that's going to be required in the next year or so. For Point Au Fer, there again, it's for breach repairs, a maintenance event, but the remainder of the money is just for the three years of annual inspections and reports.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So we're not necessarily using the (inaudible) cost argument to fund these over time, you know, if you look at East Mud Lake, and that's roughly a 50% increase from the construction cost, going from \$1.5 million to construction to a \$700,000 maintenance cost. If that were to become a recurring cost that would -- maybe the Task Force would consider not funding that cost and allowing the project to fail. At some point in time you have to look at that capability. If these are one-time costs, then I think we're justified in putting money back into the projects. If they were to be recurring, that would be a substantial increase in the fully funded cost.

DAVE BURKHOLDER:

And I guess to further answer Mr. Flores' question, the original O&M cost estimate for East Mud Lake did not include replacing that structure #4. That's the reason why we're coming for basically a one-time amount of money for maintenance event.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other questions or discussions? Do I have a motion to approve --

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, let me ask one question.

COLONEL ROWAN:

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All right, sir.

RANDY HANCHEY:

David, on the Point Au Fer Project, is this breaching associated with tropical storms that's occurred a couple years ago? I mean is this something that's happening in a normal situation or is this the result of a storm-related issue?

DAVE BURKHOLDER:

I would say it's the result of storms, but not necessarily tropical storms. A lot of times non-tropical events have a greater effect on shoreline erosion than the tropical storms do. It's mainly been storms where you have a high water and wind situation that occurs for an extended period of time, but not necessarily a tropical event.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Okay. Where I was going with that was, we talked earlier about this storm-related issue in the planning budget, but this is not something that's just an extreme event, it's a fairly regular event?

DAVE BURKHOLDER:

I would call it an operational case, yes.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Okay. Thank you.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other discussions?

BRITT PAUL:

Colonel I move that the Task Force accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve these funds.

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Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion, do I have a second?

MIGUEL FLORES:

Second.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Motion and a second. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

The motion passes. Now is this one of the cases where we've got to update available funds?

JOHN SAIA:

Yes. Put the amount in.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So that was an O&M increase to \$935,000? Next item on the agenda is --

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Mr. Chairman, just before we leave, it seems it would be helpful, in these one-time situations, that we have a brief presentation showing the initial cost, showing the requested cost, giving the cause for the cost. The type of questions that we had here could have all been answered with a three minute presentation I think.

COLONEL ROWAN:

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Okay. Agreed. I think it can be simplified. All right. The next agenda item is the request for funding for administrative costs for projects beyond Increment I funding. Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

Yes, sir. The table in your binder shows the projects for which funding is needed to cover administrative costs. The shaded amounts indicate what is the need for each project. From here on, the Technical Committee will make administrative funding recommendations to the Task Force on an annual basis. The Technical Committee recommends approval of \$21,915 for administrative costs through FY 2005. And you will note it covers several years of administrative costs as shown on the table, up to this point.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any discussion on this item?

RANDY HANCHEY:

I don't understand what it is.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay.

JOHN SAIA:

This is the management costs the Corps of Engineers expends to maintain the books, do the things that Gay is involved in, and reporting on each specific project. This is a rolling amount for cash-flow projects. And so it will need to be funded each year.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Why isn't that built into planning costs?

JOHN SAIA:

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It's a project specific, rather than a planning cost estimate. As projects are authorized, then they need to fund this activity for that specific project, rather than depleting the planning budget.

JULIE LEBLANC:

To add to that Randy, after 2009 there will be no more planning funding, assuming that the program's not reauthorized. Therefore, it has provided funding for 20 years of O&M on projects in that specific way, rather than in the planning budget.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Well why don't we wait until 2010 before we start worrying about not having a planning budget?

JULIE LEBLANC:

This money has always been approved when projects are approved for Phase II. It included three years of admin costs. And then after that there's a roll-in amount in the same manner the operation, maintenance, and monitoring is funded for Phase II projects.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Is this based on a percentage of projects, or what's the estimate rolled on?

JULIE LEBLANC:

I think it's a specific dollar amount per project. A flat rate.

RANDY HANCHEY:

You know, I think we're making a pretty fine point here, that this is not administrative costs in general, that are covered in the planning budget. And if you go back and look at the justification for it, it provides that each agency gets administrative funds for projects as a percent. And then the -- and that's on top of the planning budget which basically covers salaries and all. There's money in there for the Corps of Engineers to prepare all the reports, and I just don't know why -- if this \$21,000, and I'll admit it's a pretty small amount, but why that \$21,000 isn't just rolled into

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the Corps administrative cost of managing the project, or the program if you would, and why we have to deal with it as a construction item. And here we are sitting here with a (inaudible) million dollar surplus that would have no impact on the (inaudible) budget. It doesn't make a whole lot of difference if it's only \$21,000. But if it's going to be \$21,000 every year, I guess I really just don't understand it.

COLONEL ROWAN:

John, you want to --

JOHN SAIA:

I think there's a basis for this to be a project specific cost, rather than a generalized cost, and that's why we've accounted it this way. Julie has also indicated that as we move through the project, at some point, the five million dollars is not going to be available to utilize, because we will be in the O&M phase of the projects. And so that's another issue. But basically, this is a direct cost to the project that could be accounted. But it's up to the Task Force to make that determination as to how it should be accounted. But we do feel that it would be a direct cost to the project. An appropriate cost.

MIGUEL FLORES:

John, when you-all do your accounting on a project specific basis, is there like a typical percentage administrative cost that is associated with these projects?

JOHN SAIA:

I'll ask Gay or Julie to answer that, how they're handling the books.

GAY BROWNING:

We use what is estimated in the economic analysis. There's a fee and then it's inflated over the years and everything. I'm not sure, Chris what it's based on?

CHRIS MONNERJAHN:

It's \$665 per project, per year, for the 20 year project life, is the estimate that Gay's provided for. Each year we ask her to verify whether this is going to be enough money for her to kick off a project, maintain, that type of thing. And that's what's constantly incorporated into the PPL estimate, and fully funded over the project life by the Economic Workgroup.

GAY BROWNING:

And this is basically to do the obligations, deal with the estimates, do payments for a particular project. It's been a project specific cost since PPL1, when originally, \$10,000 was put into each project, and we found that that depleted rather quickly. So we went to funding it as a feature of the economic analysis over the years and everything. So it comes to about \$20,000 per project over the inception through 20 years.

SIDNEY COFFEE:

I want to ask, doesn't DNR spend money like this doing similar -- and I'm asking, I'm asking a question. But do we charge it back or do we ask for additional money or how does that work?

GERRY DUSZYNSKI:

Yeah. We would charge it back to the project. I guess the question I would have, and they touched on it, Priority Lists 1-8, we've added those costs in as a project cost earlier. I mean, I guess this is the way we've been doing it and now that we're into the cash-flow, that's the reason we're asking for this \$21,000?

BRITT PAUL:

That's right. We just keep that same cash-flow amount for this item that you do for the other items that we fund in a three year rotating cycle, the way I understand it. So it's just one more piece of this project operation and it is project specific for each project.

COLONEL ROWAN:

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Any other discussion?

MIGUEL FLORES:

I guess I with Randy, it's such a small amount I don't know if there's any other way with not having to spend time on this. I don't know. Is this typical? I mean will we come in every year for an increase?

JOHN SAIA:

We will be coming in. This is to fund us through 2005, and to kind of catch up for a couple of years.

BRITT PAUL:

But it's not an increase. Is it part of the estimate?

JOHN SAIA:

It's part of the estimate --

BRITT PAUL:

Part of the estimate that we carry by projects for all the life of these projects. It's just getting the money put in and go ahead and spend (inaudible) now. It's not an increase.

JOHN SAIA:

Approval of the estimate by the core administrative cost only, by the Task Force. Now it is included as part of the estimate.

MIGUEL FLORES:

It would seem to me that you can project out until 2009, figure out what that amount is, and we could, you know, just in anticipation of what those funds are going to be, and just vote on that, then having to revisit this occasion. So you might want to consider that.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

It's my understanding that projects to be approved in the future would not have this cost associated with them yet, or this estimate associated with them yet until they are approved for construction. These are ones that have moved into construction phase, sort of like an S&A for the individual projects. You can estimate it, but I don't think it will actually reflect the individual project costs.

RANDY HANCHEY:

I doubt whether that does now. I have a hard time believing that -- I would almost bet you that the amount of money is an estimate of the gross activity during the year, and not the individual activity on a whole (inaudible) project. How much do you have to charge a project to generate \$21,000? You go back to the planning budget, okay? And there are line items in the planning budget, program management, coordination (inaudible) we have \$80,000 for, maybe that's not it. Program and project management, financial management of non-cash flow projects. I don't know why it's not that. And that's \$59,000. All I'm suggesting is add \$21,000 to that and have it in the planning budget because it's an annual -- one thing you do is you deal with the planning budget annually every year. And you sit down and look at all these line items and if what this is for, is for your finance and accounting people to maintain records, that's basically what we're doing with all of the cash-flow activities, and we're paying for most of those expenses in the planning budget right now. There's probably five or six thousand dollars associated with what I would call program management, including financial management, in the planning budget. And I just don't understand why we don't simplify life by saying to people, that amount of money. And I'm not really sure I understand what it's for, but that's all right; put that into the planning budget. Now you can make a case that it's project specific, but you can make a case that a lot of these expenses in the planning budget could be construed as project specific.

COLONEL ROWAN:

It is my understanding, and Mr. Saia will have to help me out, but it's my understanding that the

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program, when it was created, limited the expenditures for planning activities in order to create a bias for construction. And since these are the management fees associated with the actual construction and operation and maintenance of the project, that's why it's a separate line item.

RANDY HANCHEY:

But I could say the same thing about planning. I could say the same thing about a lot of those kinds of activities.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I didn't write the legislation or the activities.

RANDY HANCHEY:

The five million dollars, which is the cap, talks about it in broad terms and there's not a whole lot of specificity as to what it might include. That decision has generally been made by this Task Force since the beginning of the program. And I think you could make a very good argument. The fact is, that administrative costs fit into the planning and not into construction.

JOHN SAIA:

All of these cost --

RANDY HANCHEY:

But I don't want to carry on a lot of discussion about --

JOHN SAIA:

These costs are in all of the cost estimates for the projects. So they've been -- all the cost estimates would have to be revised to reflect a reduction. So that's an additional administrative cost, just there. However, these are appropriately accounted to a project. The other issue is that we -- for the last couple years --

Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

RANDY HANCHEY:

I give up.

JOHN SAIA:

I'll back off.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Is there any further discussion?

MIGUEL FLORES:

I'll bite my tongue.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Do I have a motion at this time to consider the recommendation for the request for funding of the administrative costs?

RUSS WATSON:

So moved.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion, do I have a second?

BRITT PAUL:

Second.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have motion and a second. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

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Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you. Agenda item number 8, request for FY08 Coastwide Reference Monitoring System, wetlands monitoring funds and project specific monitoring funds. Rick?

RICK RAYNIE:

Hi. As I understand it, I'm going to give an update on CRMS and what we've done in the past year.

JOHN SAIA:

Yes. Then we'll make the recommendation.

RICK RAYNIE:

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Rick Raynie. I'm the manager of the Wildlife Monitoring Section within the Coastal Restoration Division. And over the past year, since the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System has been approved by the Task Force, we have made a lot of progress in actually getting to implementation. The first thing that we initiated, in terms of implementation, was securing land rights for the 612 stations that we needed to secure land rights for by 2007. Land rights acquisition began with the large landowners and the State and Federal. And DNR met with the Louisiana Landowners' Association. And we've secured land rights with the majority of the large landowners, and negotiations are still ongoing with several remaining large landowners and many small landowners. And to-date we've secured land rights for 254 of those 612 sites, that's about 41% of the total. Another thing that we have completed is the finalization of the cost-share agreement. We have finalized a cost-share agreement between USGS, as the Federal sponsor, and the State. And that was approved on June 8th of this year. The cost-share agreement, as written, will cover the Task Force approved project cost between 2003 and 2007, and then the budget in the cost-share agreement will be amended upon each new funding approval, similar to the way we do the cash-flow project right now. Another

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thing that we've accomplished in the past year is developing a Standard Operating Procedures manual for CRMS. It was developed by DNR with input from the Wetlands Center and from academia. And I brought a copy of it along to show you that the scope of it is basically 158 pages that covers, in significant detail, activities and procedures for site construction, data collection, quality control, data processing, and deliverables for the whole CRMS program. And this document will be used by contractors supporting CRMS implementation and it provides guidelines and requirements to ensure standardized implementation and consistency of the program. This past June, the State, working through the Office of State purchasing in Louisiana, issued a request for proposals to actually construct and start servicing the CRMS wetlands stations for the first three years of implementation. The request for proposals was released on June 22nd. We had a pre-bid conference on July 7th and the bid opening was August 17th. And DNR is currently in the process of reviewing those proposals. And that brings us kind of up to where we are right now. In terms of our anticipated activities for next year, we plan to continue land rights acquisitions on the remaining 60% of the stations. We anticipate that a contract will be selected soon to begin construction of the CRMS wetlands stations, and we will also initiate data collection at that point. We will also be training the selected contractor to make sure that they implement the program consistent with the Standard Operating Procedures that we've developed. And we will also begin preparation and flight planning for the fall of 2005 when we will acquire coastwide photography and satellite imagery as part of this program. And we will also begin preparation of a standardized data analysis and recording format.

COLONEL ROWAN:

When do we establish a baseline? Basically, the idea is to get where we are now with the coast. And when you anticipate being able to put that together.

RICK RAYNIE:

In terms of aerial photography, we are going to use the 2004 DOQQs when they become available, as our baseline for site conditions, upon initiation. But also, with the fall 2005 photography, we will have land/water analysis done at the individual CRMS stations and also the

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basin scale from the satellite imagery, to give us a status of 2005. As soon as we start collecting data, and we're anticipating to start collecting data this spring; March, April time period; we will start to collect data that will serve as our initial conditions.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. So fall of '05 is when that starts to come together?

RICK RAYNIE:

Spatial data will be collected in the fall of '05. All the on-the-ground vegetation, sediment, elevation, information on water levels, salinities -- that will begin this spring as soon as we get the stations constructed.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Colonel if I may? Hi Rick. In the future, I would make a request that when, maybe in January, if you're going to give us an update or when you give us an update, it would be nice to have a visual. You know, you say which -- where you secure land rights, what's the network looking like, what's the anticipated. You know total design of the network. We're filling in the dots here as we obtain land rights. You know, show us what type of instrumentation, you know, what it's going to look like, once it's either deployed or if you have a prototype model or whatever. I would really be interested in seeing something like that, and as you collect data, to maybe summarize to whatever extent is appropriate, information related to CRMS, because I have a great interest in this.

In addition, I thought that I had asked at one time to provide a better progress report in terms of finances and expenditures and stuff like that, and I don't know if that's been provided or not. But I would also welcome that.

RICK RAYNIE:

Okay.

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GERRY DUSZYNSKI:

Miguel, the reason we didn't come up with a very hard number on the financing is because until we review proposals and we get those numbers. Then I think the next meeting we'll have exactly what we're spending and we can find that out for you.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Are we real close to making a selection?

GERRY DUSZYNSKI:

Within a month. I think we're meeting beginning in November to do the actual selection, and of course, sign contracts and that sort of stuff. But I mean we're there, we're reviewing proposals now and if the range is not extensive, but there is some range on the bids. So, this is a bid-type deal going through State purchasing, so it's a fixed amount. So once we get those we'll be able to give you solid figures.

MIGUEL FLORES:

You know, competence before enterprise here --

GERRY DUSZYNSKI:

Excuse me. It's going through State Purchasing on what they call -- to explain a little more, it's going to what they call an innovative RFP selection; 50% for cost, 50% for technical. So there is a technical review, adequacy of proposal, that's implied in there. So it's not just low cost. Once we select somebody then the figures will be more accurate at that point.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Are there questions or discussion? Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

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At this time I'll make the recommendation of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee recommends the Task Force approve funding for project specific monitoring for three cash-flow projects in the amount of \$91,563, and approve funding for CRMS for FY08 money requests in the amount of \$532,000.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Discussion on that recommendation? Do I have a motion?

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

So moved.

RUSS WATSON:

Second.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion and a second to approve the Tech Committee recommendation on monitoring funding. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

That motion's approved. Agenda item number 9, request for reallocation of funds for Construction Unit 4 of the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phases 1 and 2. Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

Sir, I'm going to do this in two parts. First I'll make the recommendation of the Technical Committee, and then we're going to hear from Mr. Quin Kinler of NRCS, who will give you a

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briefing on this item. And I think he'll clear up some of the questions you might have on it.

The Technical Committee has reviewed the project and recommends approval of reallocating 1,510,563 dollars to construction in '04. At this time, Mr. Kindler?

QUIN KINLER:

You will notice on the agenda we have actually three items in succession on the Barataria Landbridge Project. Before I get into the specific requests that constitute item number 9 on the agenda, I'm going to give a brief overview of the Barataria Landbridge Project. The Barataria Landbridge Project was approved over the course of four different PPLs: PPL7, 8, 9 and 11. Each one of them represents a Phase: Phase, 1, 2, 3 and 4. In order to facilitate construction of this project in the most expeditious manner, we're approaching the construction of this project through what we call construction units. We have six construction units at this time. What I'm going to do is give an overview, sort of in order of what we have done, from a construction standpoint and lead into the request that is going before the Task Force today.

Construction Unit 1, which was completed in May of 2001, consists of these areas along the shore shown in white. And at these locations, due to the poor soils in this general area, we implemented four different techniques at each of these locations to try to determine what would be feasible to construct -- or how it would be feasible to construct shoreline protection in this part of the basin. Again, that is these areas in white. And these areas were selected as sort of the worst case scenario where the soils were very poor. While that was going on, we identified an area along the shoreline here where the soils were actually better and determined through geotechnical investigation to be sufficient to support rock shoreline protection. And that was constructed and completed in October 2002, and constituted about 6400 feet of linear distance along the shoreline. Additionally, we identified another segment of shoreline with reasonably good soils. That was done under Construction Unit 3. That construction, which is about almost 11,000 feet, was completed in June of 2004. That was this year.

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Today you're going to hear a couple of different requests. The first one is that this stretch of shoreline here, which is Construction Unit 4, a portion of Construction Unit 4, which would be a -- well we'll get into the details of that. Construction Unit 6, this has been approved by the Task Force and is shortly going to bid, hopefully this month. The only thing we're waiting on to go to bid on this is one additional pipeline clearance. We've gotten a verbal approval on the pipeline and now we attempt -- we're going to attempt to cross their pipeline and we're just in the process of documenting that agreement with them. As soon as that's done, we're going to advertise this project. So all of these phases, all of this work that you have seen here, has been funded for construction. The red, white and blue have actually already been built and are on the ground at this time.

When we get into the next item on the agenda, where we will be looking at projects for future funding, we will be requesting funding for this segment of shoreline, starting here down to here. And then in a second project we will be requesting shoreline protection in this reach. That is all a part of what's currently known as Construction Unit 5. That funding again, has not been approved by the Task Force, but is being requested. Part of this funding has been approved. We will need some additional funds for this, and then this reach has not been approved by the Task Force from a construction standpoint.

This slide is an attempt to provide an overall picture of all of the phases and construction units for this project. If you go back to the original estimates on this project, and you add them all up, for all the phases that were approved over those four lists, we have a total fully funded cost estimate, initially, of about 75 million dollars. If we look at the estimate that we have in-hand today, we're at about 80.6 million dollars. If you look at it an overall project, as an overall picture, then we are, at this time, estimating that we are at about 108% of the original project estimate. So we feel, even though we had quite a bit of difference in overages and underage, at the different phases, overall we feel pretty good about the 108%, given the soil conditions in that project area.

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RANDY HANCHEY:

Have they all been constructed? I mean are we talking about --

QUIN KINLER:

No. The only thing that's been constructed was on the earlier slide when you saw the red, white and blue, versus the yellow and magenta. The red, white and blue have been constructed, the other pieces have not. But these estimates that were referred to here are current estimates that we have available for which all of it has been designed. So those estimates are based on the 95% design estimates, as well as updated estimates for the project. This would be -- if we had to say what this project would cost over the 20 years of its life that would be the number that we have as of today.

COLONEL ROWAN:

If you are to look at this table, what colors are the different phases on this table?

QUIN KINLER:

White and red are part of Phase 1. Blue is part of Phase 3. Yellow is part of Phases 1 and 2 and part of Phase 3. Magenta is part of Phase 1 and part of Phase 3. And green is all of Phase 4.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So what part of the overage is associated with actual constructed cost as opposed to estimates?

QUIN KINLER:

On the ground we've only constructed three features. I mean we've only constructed three Units, three construction units. And those are all still within budget. It's only when we get to funding the ones that have not yet been funded, that we get into any overage.

The item on the agenda, item number 9 that was on the agenda, has to deal with the Phases 1 and 2 or the BA-27 portion of Construction Unit 4. What we have proposed at this location is about

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21,000 linear feet of concrete piling and a wall structure. This is what this feature looks like. It will consist of concrete piles that range in length from 60 to 80 feet in length, ranging in size from about 16 to 20 inches square. And between each of those piles, we will be inserting a concrete panel that is six inches thick, six feet tall and would range in distance from 15 feet to about 20 feet, depending on the spacing of the pile that's dictated by the soil conditions at that given location.

This is actually a picture of the test section. It's a little straight wall, as it exists in this test section. The purpose of this slide is to illustrate why we're using a wall. The elevation on the top of that wall is three feet -- three feet to the top of the wall, three and a half feet to the top of the pilings. And in the background you see one of the other test sections which included the use of a lightweight aggregate core and rock. And those structures were built in 2001; this photo is from 2004. And they were built at the same height. So you can see that the wall, which has not subsided or not sunk at all, compared to the elevation of the rock which has sunk nearly two to three feet in some instances. If you look beyond the rock that's visible in the picture you'll see a couple of pilings off to the right. Those are rock sections, which have already sunk to the point where it's below the water level at the date that this photograph was taken. The point of the slide is that in these soils, the rock would not stand up and hence the selection of the concrete sheet pile wall for the design of this construction unit.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Go back to that for a second and let me ask you a question. When we went out and looked at the test section, one of the concerns I think that's been expressed is when you start putting 21,000 linear feet of it as a continuous solid wall, you essentially block access between the marsh and the outside. And there's been some discussions about whether or not you ought to periodically offset pieces of it so that you, in fact, maintain some connectivity. I mean is that being looked at in y'all's design?

QUIN KINLER:

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It's included in the design. The thing about the 21,000 feet that I showed you on that last map, there is a total of 500 feet of openings disbursed throughout that 21,000 feet. And four of those openings are located at specific locations that are known to be exchange points due to the historic presence of bayous and canals. The other openings are basically at each point where the wall has an angle, where we stopped one section of wall and begin another to follow the shoreline. We're leaving a minimum ten foot gap at that location. So there are openings scattered throughout that entire length. And just one other note is that at each of those locations, there is a rock scour pad, which will prevent the bottom from being eroded between there and we're going to keep that existing elevation. As well as there being rock scour pad on both the front and back side of this wall, we're also depending on to prevent erosion at the face of that wall.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Can I ask you a question? Is that always going to stay as open water or is there going to be marsh creation in that area?

QUIN KINLER:

In the area of the landbridge where we have, I guess, the most significant problem with large areas of open water behind the wall will be the location of the Fish and Wildlife Service Barataria Landbridge Dedicated Dredging Project. So, in fact, right here in this peninsula area here and in this area here, that is the location. And you're going to see this project later today, and that is the location of where the Fish & Wildlife Service project will be. And those projects will work hand in glove once they're both funded and put on the ground.

This slide is just an illustration of the erosional situation that we're dealing with here. This distance could be -- in this instance, probably 20 feet. But we could go out there tomorrow and perhaps find a section of shoreline where the marsh -- this condition may be 20 feet, 30 feet, 40 feet wide. It gets taken in large chunks. And unless we implement this project and unless we do it as quickly as we can, we're going to continue to lose shoreline at this rate.

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This is some summary stats for the construction units that represent agenda item number 9. Length of shoreline, 21,000 feet; the net acres we're benefiting is 424. Construction approval has actually been granted for this project back in January of 2003. The approved amount that was estimated at that time, plus its overage, is essentially 11 million dollars. At this point in time you will not incur any new estimate. That leaves us with about a 9% contingency going into the bid process. We're a little bit uncomfortable with that amount of money. We would like to have a larger contingency going into the bid process, due to the fact that we're asking for bids on a project type that we've never bid out on this scale. But what we're asking is that from within the BA-27 budget is to re-allocate \$1.5 million that has not been allocated to a specific contract and put it into this contract. And so the request is, again, from the existing budget for this project, is to use an additional \$1.5 million for this particular construction unit. And again, we anticipate advertising this project as soon as we get that one last agreement from a pipeline company, which we're anticipating at any time.

At this time I'll entertain any questions.

MIGUEL FLORES:

You show 424+ net acres. Is that as a result of the Fish & Wildlife project or just without that dredging?

QUIN KINLER:

That's without the dredging. That's anticipated loss due to shoreline erosion without the project.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Are these -- my concern is that the landbridge is now estimated at \$80 million, the cost of the Dedicated Dredging is another 33. Are these two projects independent or, in fact, for the long term success of either two, are we committing the bulk?

QUIN KINLER:

Well I guess the priority project selection process yielded an approval for a stand alone project in four separate years. And those projects were evaluated strictly on their own merit, in terms of what would that stretch of shoreline yield in terms of benefits. And there may have been some collective understanding, or some understanding of connecting these projects and that these segments meant more than just that shoreline protection, but the benefits that have been assigned to these projects which led to their individual approval as individual projects, was based solely on the erosion protection that they're going to yield. And so my argument is that they have been standing, if you would, as individual components as they've been approved by the Task Force. But when we sweep them all together, we get an additional benefit that they're all going to work together and improve that area in general.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So if we stop funding any or all additional items, the benefits will still accrue to the items that are constructed?

QUIN KINLER:

That is correct.

BRITT PAUL:

They were evaluated that way for that reason. Because we felt stand alone projects, as they went through the priority list selection process, they did not get benefits attributable to the next project, even though we understand it could have if they all were together as a system.

QUIN KINLER:

And as we get into the next items on the agenda we'll look at Construction Unit 5. Those projects will again, if individually forced to, stand on their own in terms of prioritization score, cost effectiveness, et cetera, et cetera.

MIGUEL FLORES:

How many more phases do we have here and what is the total estimated cost of the entire project, all phases considered?

QUIN KINLER:

All phases considered is 80 point -- what is that number --

MIGUEL FLORES:

Is it \$80 million and that's it? I mean those were all of the construction units, phases, et cetera, that were planned for Barataria Landbridge Project?

QUIN KINLER:

That is correct. And you have the opportunity today to approve everything that would be needed in terms of construction. Based on the Technical Committee recommendation, one piece would be left to be funded next year if we were to go with the Technical Committee recommendation. So one time next year we would come back with an additional request, and hopefully at that point in time it would be the last time that we would be requesting any construction funds for this project.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

The question on this graph, so I can better understand it, Phase 1 and 2 shows 176 percent, the original dropping down to Phase 4 it will go down to 62. Is that our learning curve to learn from 1 and 2 and apply it later?

QUIN KINLER:

Yeah. It's a combination of a learning curve, number one, because when this project was first estimated we thought we could go out there and build a standard shoreline protection project, and we can't. By the time we got to the estimate on Phase 4, we were in a position of assuming that all the soils in the area were of a similar nature. And so we estimated Unit 4 with that in

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mind and assuming that the soils would be equally as bad as they were on Phases 1 and 2. As it turned out, the soils in Phase 4 turned out to be a little bit better. And so we did not need, if you would, the cushion that we had built in for Phase 4, assuming that the conditions would be similar to Phases 1 and 2. So it's a combination of a learning curve, and being cautious with future estimates, with later estimates.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other discussion? Do I have a motion on a request to reallocate funds for Construction Unit 4?

BRITT PAUL:

I so move, Colonel, that we accept the Tech Committee recommendation to reallocate those funds.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion. Do I have a second?

RUSS WATSON:

Second.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion and a second for the reallocation of funds. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

The motion's approved. Agenda item number 10, request for construction approval and Phase II authorization for projects on all PPLs. Mr. Saia?

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JOHN SAIA:

Sir, before we start into agenda item 10, we need to look back at our chart and see what the tally is. I'm going to ask Julie to present that. There is one item that we haven't filled in yet, which is PPL14 Phase I. So, Julie?

JULIE LEBLANC:

The dollar amounts that the Task Force recently approved have been added in. The only place where need some additional information is the PPL14 Phase I set aside. And as you know, the Tech Committee did recommend setting aside nine million dollars for PPL14 Phase I.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any discussion on that? That was those projects that will come up before the Task Force in January. And that is the placeholder we need to determine how allocable funds for this meeting.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Julie. What happens if -- last year was about \$8 million, 7.8. This year we're suggesting 9. If we decide to keep it at eight, what becomes of the \$1 million? Will that go back into general operating and be available for projects?

JULIE LEBLANC:

That would be shown as available funds.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other questions? We have a recommendation of the Tech Committee of a nine million dollar placeholder for PPL14 Phase I funding. Do I have a motion or a suggested alternate?

BRITT PAUL:

It seems reasonable based on the information that Chris has provided that they just compiled

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yesterday, of the PPL14 projects on what their Phase I estimates might be. It should be around nine million dollars, so I would say that would be a reasonable number to start with.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Is there ever an opportunity to reduce that money in the future? I mean, why do we want to go \$9 million. Why can't we use a little --

BRITT PAUL:

Just a placeholder. I mean all we're doing is setting aside some money, because come January the Task Force is going to be asking for funds for some projects for Phase I. Based on the current status of those projects we know that the estimates are as they are shown in that table there. We don't know which projects will be selected but they still have to finish going through their process of selection. But you have to set aside some money to be able to fund those projects for Phase I. This \$9 million as a placeholder could be 8, it could 7, and it could be 10. It's just up to the Task Force to set aside some money to do that.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Okay.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Do I have a motion on the Tech Committee recommendation of \$9 million dollars?

BRITT PAUL:

I'll put it in form of a motion if that's what you'd like.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion to accept the Tech Committee recommendation. A second?

MIGUEL FLORES:

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I guess if it's just a placeholder I'll second that.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any final words? Otherwise, we'll put it to a vote and set that money aside.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Let it just be on record that I'm going to be looking at these costs very closely in January and making sure that they are not excessive. I'd like to, you know, task the folks that are coming up with these estimate to be as fiscally responsible as possible.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So noted. I have a motion and a second in front of the Task Force to set aside \$9 million. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

JULIE LEBLANC:

With that number in there we now have 51,937,700 dollars of Federal funds available for agenda item number 10.

COLONEL ROWAN:

And as we move into item 10, which is possibly the heart of this meeting, what I'd like to do is set a little purpose aside and discuss how we're going to go through this. What I'd like to do is have each of the projects in sequence. And those are all the projects that were considered this year, not just the recommendation of the Tech Committee, be presented in a brief format to the Task Force, so that we can see it essentially as the Tech Committee saw it. After each project we will entertain a brief discussion by the Task Force and then some rather brief public comments of support or other, on behalf of the projects. What I would like to remind people

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though, we do have nine projects and we will be going through them all. The Task Force has seen the formal written comments submitted on behalf of projects. So we would like to keep the public comment to the point, succinct and where you're just restating a position that you sent us in writing. It's not really necessary and it detracts from the execution and evaluation of the projects. Any other points by the Task Force?

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Mr. Chairman, part of that setting, is there a possibility of a restroom break?

COLONEL ROWAN:

There is indeed that possibility. What I'd like to do, if we can run through one of the projects and test drive this and then we've got to a break for lunch anyway, and we might as well do it at that point. So what I'll have is Mr. Saia of the Tech Committee introduce the project sequentially, we'll run through one before lunch and then break the Task Force. Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

Yes, sir. We're going to go through a presentation of the charts that are in your books. The Technical Committee has reviewed the projects, which one of them is a demonstration project. The first table under your tab, you can see this chart which shows the projects considered and those projects being recommended by the Technical Committee for funding.

This is the chart that we used to tally the amount of funds available. It's changed to some degree. As you can see, the first line, there is an available unencumbered, which is different than we just showed on the previous couple of slides back that Julie showed. We have about \$3.5 million in lieu of the \$1.2 million shown here. Basically the remainder of the numbers, based on your approval, are the same. So we started out with a base of \$49,772,000, and I believe yours was slightly over 50 million dollars, \$51 million I believe.

This is the third table in your books and it shows the relative prioritization scores of the projects

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we considered for approval. You can see those shaded in yellow. Very hard to read. However, you can see that in your books. The fourth table shows the results of the Technical Committee's voting of the six agencies. Each agency -- I'll go through the process, it's shown on the table at the bottom in the footnotes. Each agency was instructed to rank the projects from 11 to 1, with 11 being their considered highest priority project. You should note that the demonstration project was combined with South White Lake Shoreline Project, so that became one item. The totals of the votes are shown in the two right columns in green. The first of those columns shows the number of votes by project for the top six choices by each agency. And you can see that on the first one, all six agencies had high priority votes. On the next one, none of the votes were considered high priority by any of the agencies, and you see zero. The next column shows the total weighted scores, considering the rankings of each agency. Let's go to the next table. The last table shows the sorted rankings of projects by number of high rankings between 11 and 6, and by weighted score. And that's in the center of the chart. The Technical Committee considered the funds available for obligation and after hearing public comments, determined that a recommendation should be made for the top four projects, including the demonstration project.

There was, however, considerable discussion about North Lake Mechant Project since it was the next one in order. However, there was not sufficient funds to make a recommendation to approve that at that time. We were about five million dollars short. With a discussion, the possibility of reducing that estimate and reconsidering; however, at that time at the Technical Committee meeting, we couldn't make that determination. So at this meeting later on, as we go through the project briefings for North Lake Mechant, you'll hear about a reduced estimate. We also discussed the possibility of skipping Lake Mechant and moving onto other items below Lake Mechant that would fit within the available funds. We decided not to pursue that either. And so we limited our recommendation to the top four projects, including the demonstration project. At this time the Technical Committee's recommendation is for the Task Force to approve the top four projects, including the demonstration project. At this time I think we're ready to have our project presentations, and as you indicated we'll proceed with the first one and go through the process if that's acceptable.

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MIGUEL FLORES:

Colonel, could I interrupt for a second? I'm sorry. John, I'm familiar with how we developed the prioritization criteria.

JOHN SAIA:

Yes, sir.

MIGUEL FLORES:

I'm not really familiar with the criteria on how these votes are cast with respect to -- and the Technical Committee not having ever attended a Technical Committee meeting, so if you could just very briefly go through that process that people typically use for that?

JOHN SAIA:

Well, prior to the Technical Committee meeting we -- looking back on this chart, is the process that we went through. However, before we had the Technical meeting, all the agencies agreed to the process that we would go through in terms of voting. And at the meeting, what we did was go through all the projects first, heard the comments of the public, and then each agency, as we indicated, was told that they had 11 votes for ranking from 11 to 1. And that was predetermined prior to the Technical Committee meeting. And 11 being high and 1 being low, and they were told that there would not be any duplicate votes so that you would have to cast one vote for each project. And from that, it was agreed that the top six would indicate a vote of -- by an agency. And first we would look at those top votes. And so you have, in the case of the first item on the list there, you have the six agencies voting six and above, 6 to 11. And that indicated that they would receive one vote for each -- from each agency that voted above six. And that's why we see a total of six. So that was our first review of the project to see, based -- was there consensus among the various agencies on those projects? And what you'll see in the second chart, you'll see the number of votes cast in that first column. You'll see six for the top project, and also you'll see the total score using the 1 through 11 totals, and that came out to 53. Now each

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agency, at the prioritization list, came to their own conclusions based on that as one factor, and other factors under there that they considered. Now our first look was to rank them by --

MIGUEL FLORES:

Let me interrupt you there. I am familiar with that process, because I guess the key thing is that this is really on the basis of what our members of the Technical Committee -- whatever factors they considered in making this vote, that that's how they voted?

JOHN SAIA:

Right. Yes. And it varied by agency, what they felt were the most critical projects that needed to move forward. And they did look at the prioritization list and you can see the scores also on this list here towards the end, one the latter columns. You can see that most of them that are higher priority got ranked at the top.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Thank you Mr. Saia.

JOHN SAIA:

With that, I think we'll proceed with the first presentation, and that's again, Mr. Quin Kinler. And the first project, Barataria Basin Landbridge. Quinn?

QUIN KINLER:

You saw this slide earlier, and this is a representation of all the phases and construction units of the landbridge area. The item on the agenda that we're considering is this stretch right in here. This is part of BA-27, Phases 1 and 2. And it includes, again, the design of a concrete pile and panel wall. And it involves about close to 14,000 linear feet along the shoreline; again, almost 14,000 feet of shoreline. A very important thing to note is the erosion rate. For about three-quarters of this project, the erosion rate is 114 feet per year. That's not a typo. And then for the remainder portion of the project, about 23%, the erosion rate is still very significant in that it's 30

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feet per year. Basically the project is predicted to eliminate that level of shoreline erosion, and that equates to, over the life of 20 years, about 721 net acres, at year 20. Prioritization score was 77.25, which is the highest ranking of the projects that are being considered today.

If this project were to stand alone, it's fully funded cost estimate would be \$11.7 million. The request, to build this particular construction unit which would include construction contingency and S&I, would be just over \$10 million. Remembering from the previous presentation, the BA-27 budget has a balance, a current estimated balance of about \$2.6 million, which can be used as part of this construction. But, in addition we're requesting additional funds be made available to the tune of 7.4 million dollars. So what we're asking for is construction approval, including an increase from the current available money in CWPPRA to do construction, of 7.4 million dollars.

This is a photograph that was taken this spring, I guess in April of this year. And it's similar to the slide that you saw earlier. I'm wading probably about 20 feet from what could be now considered the shoreline. And the marsh that you see surrounding me is existing as broken clumps, some of which are small enough to pick up, as I have with these two clumps. Other clumps may be five to ten feet in diameter. But the point is that they have all broken from the shoreline due to an undercutting of waves beneath the layer of root mass and they basically have broken off and fallen into the water in place. And in the next couple of weeks this grass will die and with the next wind event, all of the organic matters in the soils will be lost to the system. This slide epitomizes why we need to fund this portion of this project. That's all I have. I will entertain questions.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Colonel, if I may. Talk to me about the ecological significance. I mean we have this type of photograph all over coastal Louisiana. Why -- what sets this particular area apart from others that are, perhaps, equally endangered? What is the ecological significance of preserving this particular part of the landbridge?

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QUIN KINLER:

First off, I'm not aware of any other erosion rate estimates at 100+ feet a year. That is probably more significant than most places in Louisiana. Not to make light of an erosion rate of 15 to 20 feet, that is significant. But here you have erosion rates of 115 feet a year, and I have not seen very many projects that have brought that type of erosion rate to the table. You'll see several projects today, and you'll note that very few of them approach anywhere near 100 feet a year. But, going to the heart of your question, what is the ecological significance of this? Chris, if you could go back, perhaps to the first slide that will best illustrate this. The Barataria Landbridge concept is that there still -- despite the erosion in this area and on the flanks of this project, there still exists a fairly intact land mass across the Barataria Basin all the way from the Mississippi River to Bayou Lafourche. At the heart of that area is this area. Just off this screen, or actually right here is the Barataria Bay waterway, to the south here we have Little Lake, which basically through a series of large lakes and bays, connects to Barataria Bay. The system here, the Barataria Basin below this point, is largely a marine tidal process system. You have brackish and saline marshes, large open lakes, and a lot of tidal exchange. Above this point -- at this point you're getting into sort of the intermediate zone, and above this point you're more into fresh marsh, bald cypress, Tupelo swamp-type community, and it has been recognized that this area here is very important to keep as a land mass. If we don't do something soon in this general area, we're going to have not just three connections, being the waterway, the Harvey Cut-off and Bayou Perot; this will all be one big opening if we don't do something in the heart of this basin. That's why, in addition to just pure shoreline erosion that we're preventing, we're also trying to keep intact this central part of the basin.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Thank you very much.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other discussion by the Task Force members? DNR? All right.

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Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

At this time I'll ask the public if there are people that want to speak on behalf of this project. Again, keep it to a two to three minute, and if you're just restating what's been stated either in a formal letter, that's all you need to say on that. Any comments from the public on this particular project? All right. None noted.

What I'd recommend the Task Force do right now is take that break that was promised at the end of the first project. We are scheduled to reconvene at 1:30. If we can move that up a little bit -- 45 minutes? Is that adequate for lunch or do we need an hour to get some place? I am getting at least an hour head sign. We will reconvene at 1:00. That's an hour and 15 minutes. Thank you.

-- BREAK --

COLONEL ROWAN:

I believe to start this off, Mr. Bob Stewart would like to address the Task Force real briefly before we move to the next project.

BOB STEWART:

Thank you, Colonel, for giving me a little bit of time on your agenda today. I am Bob Stewart, I'm the director of USGS's National Wetland Research Center on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. And we are going through some changes and we just wanted to let everybody know about some of those changes. Change is a strange thing, but not in government, because I keep telling everybody that's one of the axioms of government that this too shall change. And change can be a fun thing to go through, and that's how we're looking at this. I'm retiring in January of this coming year, and we've done something unusual in the USGS. What we've done is we've already gone through the competitive process to pick my replacement, and today he's with us and I wanted to at least introduce him to the Task Force and the people who care so much about The Breaux Act, and restoration of coastal Louisiana. This is Dr. Greg Smith. Dr. Smith comes to us from our Reston office in Virginia. And he'll be joining us in mid-November. This week he's down for a house-hunting trip and bought a beautiful house, and arrange for school for his son, and everything seems to be falling in place for him very nicely.

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Dr. Smith comes to us -- he was a former USGS Center director in Ann Arbor, and he had a lot of experience, some really good rave reviews from up there. And for the last couple years he's been the liaison, USGS liaison to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Washington, DC. And I just wanted him to at least say hi to the Task Force, if you don't mind. Dr. Smith?

DR. GREG SMITH:

Well, thank you Bob. It's really, really a wonderful pleasure to be in Louisiana. Bob talked about change being, I guess, sort of inevitable, but really nice. And I can't help but recognize that he's retiring. That sounds like a nice change. And I'm in the process of selling and buying real estate, and I'm a scientist, so.... I'm glad you're enjoying your change Bob. But I know that we're going to really enjoy living in Louisiana, and especially working in the community that you-all have established in terms of coastal restoration. Being the Center Director of our Great Lakes Science Center, we always considered Great Lakes as having coastal areas as well. And I personally have quite an interest in coastal restoration and the science that supports that process. And I've worked with almost all of the organizations involved with the Task Force. I guess, perhaps, all of them, if you include the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies representing the States. So, once again, I'm very much looking forward to working with you-all and carrying on the commitment that USGS has to provide science for the restoration activities for the coastal areas that we all find so important. I know that Bob has made a very strong commitment to do that, and he leaves some big shoes to fill, and a wonderful office to move into, by the way. And our director, Chip Groat, the director of the U.S. Geological Survey, he and I have met on several occasions, most recently after I was appointed to replace Bob. And Chip sends his regards. He has a very, very soft spot in his heart for Louisiana and the coast, and I guarantee you that his commitment remains strong to your efforts. So thank you again.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you, and welcome. Mr. Saia, if you want to continue with the projects?

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JOHN SAIA:

Yes. Our next project presentation is again, by Mr. Kinler. And he's going to be talking about the Barataria Basin Phase 3, Construction Unit 5.

QUIN KINLER:

As just a reminder from this morning, this slide represents the entire view of the Barataria Landbridge Project. The area that is being considered under this agenda item, the second project on the list, is a reach of shoreline that extends 22,800 feet from this point down the west bank of Bayou Perot and the north shore of Little Lake, ending at this pipeline canal. Again, 23,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.

Some summary statistics. The length of shoreline again. The erosion rate here is considerably less than the previous project that you saw. We have about 40% of the shoreline that is eroding at a rate of 30 feet per year. Again, that is still very significant. About 46% of the shoreline is eroding at 15 feet per year, and about 14% of the shoreline that's eroding at five feet per year. Net acres, after 20 years, at the end of the twenty year project life would be 180, and the prioritization score is 45.55.

The total fully funded estimate for this reach of the shoreline would be \$14.7 million. The Phase II approval request, which includes construction contingency, S&I and O&M for the first three years, would be just over \$14 million. And the -- I'm sorry. That's all of the O&M, not just the first three years. If we would go to the Phase II Increment I request; which includes construction contingency, S&I, and only three years worth of O&M; we would be at a number of about \$12.1 million. That's it. Any questions?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Questions by the Task Force?

RANDY HANCHEY:

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Quinn, when you look at this side by side with the other one, and I look at the prioritization, this project was rated pretty low, the other was rated pretty high. Is -- you know, what's the difference, other than the erosion rates which you emphasized? Is it just that we felt like this was -- we were proceeding on a pace that we didn't want to fund two big projects in one year or what?

QUIN KINLER:

No. Well, the big difference between the -- in the prioritization ratings is exactly that, it is the rate of erosion. With the other project, over 20 years, we're going to save seven hundred twenty some odd acres. For a little bit more money, because we've got a longer stretch of shoreline, we're going to save, in this case, only 180 acres. And that plays into two variables, actually partially into three variables within the prioritization scheme; hence the prioritization score was greatly reduced for this stretch of shoreline. Because, as part of the process, they are forced to compete as an independent section, and this one doesn't score as well based on the fact that it's not going to protect as many acres as the other one will.

RANDY HANCHEY:

But the strategy that we're talking about with respect to the Barataria Landbridge envisions us ultimately taking care of the whole thing, right?

QUIN KINLER:

Yes, it does. Chris, if you'll go back to one of the slides and give us a picture. A slide that I did not include in this presentation, in the interest of brevity, is a slide that shows what the original planning group for this area conceived as project. And it did include protecting this area of the basin, because you can easily imagine that if we lose this peninsula, which is already being somewhat cut around with this oil and gas canal, if we lose this, then we have a tremendously larger opening connecting the marine tidal processes of the southern part of the basin and the freshwater dominated portion of the upper basin. And so, you know, this is very important, even though if you look at this cost per acre, over 20 years it doesn't show up that well. You know,

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again, assuming that the recommendation that came forth from the Technical Committee stands, we will be at, this time next year, asking for the funding of this last final piece of the puzzle. And it is a very important piece of the puzzle.

RANDY HANCHEY:

When you look at this on the map, as opposed to the acres, you could argue that this is a strategic structural element that needs to be preserved, or it makes preserving the rest of it really much more difficult.

QUIN KINLER:

I agree with you a 100%. And I think you will see quite a push for that last final piece, when the next opportunity presents itself for that.

RANDY HANCHEY:

My recollection is, Colonel, that, you know, as we began this project and we began to look at it as individual pieces, we asked the NRCS to go back and put the whole thing together, so that we could deal with a comprehensive solution and not make commitments to increments that without the rest of it may not make as much sense. And while I can appreciate that we don't want to spend all of our available money each year on just this project, that we could literally spend two years worth of CWPPRA receipts on this one total project. I think we need to keep in mind that, ultimately, my sense is we've got an interest in protecting this whole area.

QUIN KINLER:

I would agree. In fact, you're going to notice on there that both this segment, and this segment are described as Construction Unit 5. We designed it, and it exists as a design package, as a single contract. The reason why it's being presented as two different projects is that you have a part of the project that is a non-cash flow project, Phases 1 and 2, and a cash flow project, Phase 3. And the funding and procedure and process is a little bit different from those. So we were asked toward the end of this review process to separate the numbers in terms of cost and

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benefits, so that these projects could be considered, once again, to stand on their own individual feet. And we did that for the purpose of trying to comply with the, I guess, the intent of the SOP, which does include a different procedure for cash flow and non-cash flow projects.

RANDY HANCHEY:

All right.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other comments by the agency? All right.

Any comments by the public?

MARNIE WINTER:

Marnie Winter, representing Jefferson Parish. The landbridge is a critical project for Jefferson. This part of the project is primarily on the other side in Lafourche, but we still support it because this whole central area is -- this land mass is critical to protecting every single home. We strongly support this project.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any additional comments? All right.

Mr. Saia, next project.

JOHN SAIA:

Yes, sir. The next project is going to be presented by Dr. Ken Duffy, and it is Freshwater Bayou Stabilization.

DR. KEN DUFFY:

This is the Freshwater Bayou Project. This kind of shows you why the project is needed. Most

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of Freshwater Bayou is already -- the shoreline of the bayou we've already protected. But this shows you that this section of the shoreline is eroding at about twelve and a half feet per year.

A little background on the project. Freshwater Bayou was constructed in the mid-1960s, the lock was constructed in 1968 to protect against saltwater intrusion. Most of the canal already has shoreline protection, but this stretch of it doesn't and it kind of forms a critical feature separating Freshwater Bayou from the marshes behind it, which would be subjected to increased salinities.

The project itself was a 9th Priority List project. Phase I funding was about a million dollars and we pretty much spent our money on that. The initial study proposed about 40,000 of rock dike, as well as some hydrologic restoration features. And those features were removed from the project because of questions concerning their effectiveness. As you can see here, the project area was increased a little bit from here up to Belle Isle Bayou, just to tie in with the original TV-11 project. You can see the area, Area B, was a hydrologic restoration area that was removed from the project area between the 30% and 95%. The shoreline was -- the reaches -- it was divided into three reaches based on soil conditions. The southern area and the northernmost areas have weaker foundations than the central reach. The current design calls for about 40,000 feet of linear rock dike offshore, about three and a half feet tall in about two, two and a half feet of water, with (inaudible). Using 2,000 pound stone it, would require about 380,000 tons.

The current first cost is 13.8 million dollars. That's what we're asking for today. The fully funded cost is 15.7, and that includes operations & maintenance events in years 15 -- well five and fifteen that was added between the 30% and 95%, based on the results of the Ecological Review. You can see that the prioritization score was 42.5, but part of that is due to the fact that it's actually on the east bank for Freshwater Bayou. The west bank is in the Mermentau Basin, and the prioritization scores for that basin are a little differently -- were calculated a little differently. So it actually took a hit for being on the demarcation line. And that's about it.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

Any questions by the Task Force?

RANDY HANCHEY:

I'd like to hear a little bit more. How can being on the east bank and west bank affect the prioritization score? I don't understand.

DR. KEN DUFFY:

Well, the shoreline protection feature in the Mermentau Basin would have scored five points higher than in the Teche/Vermilion Basin, just because one is in the Chenier Plain and one is in the Deltaic Plain. And you have to demark it somewhere between the Deltaic and Chenier Plains and that demarcation was Freshwater Bayou.

RANDY HANCHEY:

And you think that makes sense?

DR. KEN DUFFY:

It kind of does. They are different -- I mean obviously it's the same body of water, but the marshes it protects are supposedly different enough so that they made that distinction. But I wasn't there to make that call.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other questions? All right.

Any statements by the members of the public? Judge?

JUDGE EDWARDS:

Judge Edwards, Vermilion Corporation and major landowner -- one of the major landowners in the area. While I speak, of course in favor of the project, I'd like to note that the hydrologic

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restoration portion of the project was taken out at the request of the sponsoring agency. It seemed to be complicating the project, but if you notice, they've greatly reduced the benefit; 241 acres given benefit here. Had the hydrologic restoration portion remained in, you'd have probably had about 4,000 acres benefited, which would greatly reduce the cost per acre. As this project will come up again, I think, because it probably won't get funded this round. By the time we get to this next year, we will probably be looking at an additional 3,000 acres on top of the four, making it 7,000 acres. It's approximately 7,000 acres of marsh that is or was under management prior to the levees of the channel being managed. And the money, both in mitigation dollars and in dollars spent by the private sector, is no longer, for the most part, functioning. We have lost, to-date, about one section of land due to saltwater intrusion, killing out vegetation on the inside. It's turned to open water, and remains open water today after four years, and we are unable to re-vegetate it because we are unable to dewater it long enough for seeds to germinate. The private sector has made an effort to mimic this project to the best of its funding capabilities, but the cost of mitigation prohibits us from doing so. And with that, I hope we can review this project in future years, because it's worthy of your consideration. I understand that this year it's probably not going to make the cut, but we appreciate the review. Thank you very much.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you. Any additional comments? I'm hearing none.

Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

Okay. The next project's going to be presented by Mr. Darryl Clark. He's going to be talking about the Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82.

DARRYL CLARK:

Okay. The Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 Project is in the Mermentau Basin of

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southwest Louisiana. The primary project area is south of Highway 82. You can see on the map on the screen where I'm pointing right now, the Mermentau Lakes sub-basin is north of 82 over where I'm pointing now, and the Chenier sub-basin is south of that highway. Generally marshes south of Highway 82 have been starved of freshwater flow from normal estuarine freshwater flow from north to south. In the Chenier Plain you have Pecan Island, Chenier and Grand Chenier over here, and you have that flow interrupted by Highway 82, although there are some bridges.

The problems in the area involve increased land loss up to 0.80 or 80% per year; with a range of 0.16 to 0.56, 38% average yearly loss from 1932 to 1990. The freshwater flow has been interrupted by Highway 82 and levees and canals in the area. Salinities have ranged in the brackish marsh area, and I'll show you in a moment, from one, it's as little as one part per thousand to twenty-eight parts per thousand. Brackish marsh optimal salinity is about an average of -- annual below eight parts per thousand, although you can have -- it's an average base, you can have salinities over eight. The problem's solution is that we have increased water levels in the Mermentau Lakes sub-basin due to impoundment in that sub-basin, due to structures on the Mermentau River, the Intercoastal Waterway at Leland-Bowman locks, The Schooner Bayou locks to the east, and the Calcasieu Locks to the west.

The project features involve the enlargement of channels north of Highway 82 and some south of Highway 82: Grand Volle Ditch, Highway 82 borrow channel, the boundary line canal. Install four new freshwater inflow structures consisting of either three or four 48-inch diameter culverts each in the boundary line canal, primarily. Removing one plug that's preventing some freshwater from coming into the area from the Superior Canal. Modify one large radial arm gate structure, at the Little Constance Bayou structure located in the southwestern part of the project to facilitate movement of freshwater out of Unit 6 on Rockefeller Refuge, to benefit those marshes to the south of Unit 6. And finally, construct 26,000 feet, 4.9 miles of duck wing vegetative earthen terraces.

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This will show you where some of the features are located. That's the Grand Volle Ditch. It's located from Grand Volle right here, which is a canal south of White Lake; it extends down to Highway 82. This is going to be enlarged to also improve the connection between White Lake in this area. The borrow canal north of Highway 82 is proposed to be improved in order to get some water from the Superior Canal system, which is the large canal system going north/south in this direction into this area. A plug in this location is to be removed to facilitate the flow from the Superior Canal. Twenty-six thousand (26,000) linear feet of earthen terraces are proposed for this location. New structures are proposed for the boundary line canal to right here, at Cop-Cop Bayou and another one at Dyson Bayou for Unit 6 and Area A, to benefit the brackish marshes in this area. And the Little Constance radial arm gate structure is proposed to be improved, modified to flow water into these marshes to the south of Unit 6.

This is a shot looking -- this is the Gulf of Mexico looking at Area A, south of the boundary line canal, looking at some of the brackish marshes that have received or are receiving higher salinity waters than brackish marshes are able to tolerate due to reduced freshwater flow coming from the north, which would be coming from the north going to the south towards the Gulf of Mexico. These marshes near the Gulf of Mexico are saline marshes and they're fairly intact. This area is looking at the area north of the boundary line canal, looking to the north. This is White Lake to the north. This is the area where the earthen terraces are proposed, and you can see these -- this intermediate marsh with some brackish marsh has been eroded quite a bit. And the terraces, we hope will slow shoreline erosion, will quiet the area in order to increase vegetation, and will restore marsh in its own right.

We had a hydrologic model performed showing the results of increased freshwater flow into the project area. If you look at the blue area on this map, the blue areas show the greatest reduction in salinity proposed or predicted to the project by the model, a hydrodynamic model. We show as much as a 50% reduction in salinities in certain areas, basically from 0 to 60% throughout the entire modeling effort. This is just showing you a June of 2002 modeling effort. And some areas do not have as much change, but the primary change is in the central to eastern part of the

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project area, and also Areas B and C on either side of Unit 14 on Rockefeller Refuge.

The benefits of the project and statement of need, the project will return part of the Chenier sub-basin to its former ecological natural estuarine function. That is, the natural estuary has freshwater flowing from the north going to more saline marsh areas to the south to form a gradient of salinity types, from fresh swamps to fresh marshes and intermediate, brackish and saline marshes, in basically a north-south gradient. And this would help this and also help those brackish marshes that are being starved. The project supports a major Coast 2050 Regional Strategy for Region 4, which is to move water from north-south across Highway 82. The model predicts significant project-related salinity reductions from 0 to 60%. There are 296 net acres protected and restored; 14 acres are restored; 553 habitat units are in the wetland value assessment restored. Prioritization score 57.4, which is much more respectable than the last project I presented to this group. The significance of this project, it will significantly benefit Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuges and adjacent lands. This refuge is a premier wildlife and fisheries refuge in Louisiana. It's a State refuge. This project is very cost effective, \$21,700 an acre, and it's located in the Mermentau Basin where you can still perform cost effective restoration, we feel, without spending an arm and a leg. The total project costs are, I think below four million dollars for the request. I don't have the exact figure here -- can somebody help me on that?

JULIE LEBLANC:

\$4.3 million.

DARRYL CLARK:

4.3 -- I was fairly close. Thank you, any questions?

COLONEL ROWAN:

On the salinity gradient, there's one area that shows an increase. Is that a problem, and what are we doing about it?

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DARRYL CLARK:

Yeah. Okay. We have an increase, just, you know, kind of just a little bit that actually shows a 20% increase. There is nothing, you know, within the project components to show -- that would show such an increase. When you run these hydrodynamic models -- I don't know a lot about this, I'm a biologist, you've got a bunch of engineers, especially in front at this first table. But, you know, it's not an exact -- exact science, and you do have little weird things that pop up, such as this. There are no structures, for example, to, you know, introduce -- well we do have a Dyson Bayou structure here. We do have a structure that will bring some water from Unit 6 of Rockefeller Refuge into this area. And perhaps, in this particular scenario, that particular structure might have introduced some water, 20% more saline than the -- maybe some of the water on the other side. But still, Unit 6 is an intermediate marsh and this Unit right here, Area A, is brackish and saline. So you're not going to have too many instances where you have higher salinities in Unit 6 than you do out here. So I would say, you know, it's somewhat of an anomaly, but other increases in salinity on some of the model runs, did indicate, especially pulling water from the Superior Canal system into this area, it did pull water that was a little bit more saline than the water in Area B, for example. But still, you're talking salinities of four parts per thousand in Area B, and pulling water over four and a half to five parts per thousand. This water is not going to hurt these marshes, and the ultimate, the major target area for this "freshwater" is this area. And five parts per thousand salinity would be a welcome relief to marshes that hit as high as 28 parts per thousand. Those brackish marshes would love to have some five parts per thousand of water coming in there. So the model also did indicate some higher increases in salinity when you're pulling water from the Superior Canal.

COLONEL ROWAN:

The other question I have is did they model it in higher marine years and drought years? Because it seems to be that rainfall in the area has as much of an affect as anything that we do naturally in terms of impact.

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DARRYL CLARK:

The actual modeling period was 2002, which was a normal rainfall year. The drought was 1998 to 2000, and we had just come out of the drought and getting into a normal year. So, we did not have the monetary resources to -- nor the time to, you know, well to model different rainfall years. We collected the data in 2002, to be put into the model. And we did not have any extra model runs for elevated projections of salinity for a drought year, stuff like that.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other questions from the Task Force? All right. Any statements or -- I'm sorry. Secretary?
Hold on Darryl.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Don't leave yet Darryl. Who did the modeling for y'all?

DARRYL CLARK:

Fenstermaker & Associates from Lafayette, Louisiana.

RANDY HANCHEY:

You know, let me just -- and this is a comment. When you find these kinds of anomalous situations with these types of models that you don't understand and can't explain, it really sort of calls into question the credibility of the parts that you do point to with pride. And it doesn't make sense to me that you would have increased salinities out there as a result of freshwater anywhere, but that's not really my main question. I've got two questions. One of them is: I recall that in a previous priority list we approved a structure of some type of freshwater south of Highway 82. It was all a part, and as you recall, there were some structures back up to the Mermentau Basin and we had asked that those things be looked at in concert. Is this a different project than the one that had been previously approved? Or how does it relate to the one that was previously approved?

DARRYL CLARK:

The State has a project called ME-1, which is a freshwater introduction project at Pecan Island. It was funded 100% by the State. There are two other freshwater introduction projects. They're in engineering and design right now. The South Grand Chenier Project to the west, south of Grand Chenier, and the Little Pecan Bayou Freshwater Introduction Project which is also the west off the of Mermentau River in the Little Pecan Bayou area. These projects are still in engineering and design. They are both undergoing modeling, and they're being modeled -- the modeling -- they're being modeled together to see what the combined impact of both these projects would be in reducing salinities south of 82, south of Grand Chenier.

RANDY HANCHEY:

And did y'all take into consideration, those projects being in place when you modeled and designed this project?

DARRYL CLARK:

Those other projects are not in place. I mean, the only project in place would be ME-1, and --

RANDY HANCHEY:

No, I mean if we got there with these other two projects in design, that y'all look ahead and model this in anticipation that those projects would be there and determine how it might affect this particular project?

DARRYL CLARK:

Well, the answer is no. And the reason is that they're really in a different part of the Mermentau Lakes sub-basin. They are west of the Superior Canal. They're south of Grand Lake. They're off of the Mermentau River system, and this project is east of the Superior Canal in another lake, White Lake. But it's, you know, a drop of water pulled from White Lake will, you know, might have been a drop of water that used to be Grand Lake at one time.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Now let me ask a final question. When you talk about the benefits of this project, I noted that you had distinguished between restored and protected. And I guess my question is, how much of the benefits of this project are associated with the terraces, as opposed to influence of increased freshwater in the basin?

DARRYL CLARK:

The amount of marsh restored directly by the terraces will be 14 acres -- net acres. The total net acres protected and restored, we're talking about 296 acres total. But of that 296, directly attributed to the terraces for the restoration, would be 14 acres, but there is going to be some more acres attributed to the terraces. But right now I'd say about 282 acres protected for the freshwater introduction features and 14 acres for the terraces.

RANDY HANCHEY:

I guess Darryl, what I'm really curious about is, is that we have seen projects in which people are building terraces, doing some hydraulic dredging to create marsh. But when we really look at it they provide 75 to 80% of the benefits of a project, which leads you to ask, what would this project look like if you didn't do all of this hydraulic modification and simply built the terraces. Would it be -- is this project being supported benefit-wise, by virtue of the fact that you're building terraces that already exist or primarily a hydraulic modification project?

DARRYL CLARK:

I'd say about 5% may be attributed to the terraces, 95% hydrologic restoration. Fourteen (14) acres versus 282 acres.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Well yeah, but --

DARRYL CLARK:

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I haven't got a calculator.

RANDY HANCHEY:

When you talked about the terraces and you talked about the fact that part of the justification is to reduce (inaudible) and break up wave action, I interpreted that as going to have some protection shorelines in that area where you're going to build the terraces. So I'm not sure that the only claimed benefit is the actual terraces themselves. But I don't want to beat this -- this is a project, in my judgment, has a lot of uncertainties.

DARRYL CLARK:

I agree with you regarding the terrace comment. There will be benefits of protected shoreline, and they were not captured in the analysis.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Is there any other discussion by the Task Force?

Any comments on behalf of the project?

PARKE MOORE:

Good afternoon Task Force. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries welcomes you to the Louisiana Room today. My name is Parke Moore, I'm Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife. I'd like to make a positive comment in support of this project as proposed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Our staff at Rockefeller has been intimately involved in data collection and scoping this project, and I believe that we've got a winner here and I'd like to support that further.

Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 will enhance approximately 24,000 acres of wetland marshes (inaudible) Rockefeller Refuge and adjacent land. Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 will set forth a more natural historic flow pattern of freshwater into what

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are now brackish marshes. This restoration effort will convey available freshwater from Grand and White Lakes, in a process that will, in time, move these wetlands back to be a more diverse and productive fresh and intermediate marsh condition. Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 will include the construction and vegetative planting of terraces designed to reduce wave action and marsh erosion, hence, acting as an impediment to the loss of Louisiana's wetlands. Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 will allow for the prompt, yet engineered relief system high water levels relative to the highway. And as stated, it was identified in the Coast 2050 and the LCA plan.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries is fully supported with this project. Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 will provide an array of beneficial impacts for Louisiana's coastal restoration efforts. Thank you.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any additional comments?

All right. Mr. Saia?

JOHN SAIA:

The next speaker is Mr. Loland Broussard, and he's going to be speaking on South Lake Decade Construction Unit 1.

LOLAND BROUSSARD:

The South Lake Decade Freshwater Introduction Project is located in South Central Terrebonne Parish. It's bordered on the north by Lake Decade. Delineated in red here are the actual project boundaries. Again, it's the north boundary, south is Lake Decade, you've got Lapeyrouse Canal and you've got Small Bayou La Pointe Bridge on the north. You've got an oilfield canal on the east and southeast, undifferentiated marsh on the southwest. You've got another oilfield canal on the west side and Bayou Decade also on the west side.

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This project was separated into two construction units. When it was initially approved it was -- you had shoreline protection components along the lake shoreline and freshwater introduction components associated with the initial project. This is Construction Unit 1, and the component involved with Construction Unit 1 is shoreline protection in this segment of South Lake Decade, from the transcontinental pipeline all the way up to Bayou Decade, which is approximately 8,700 linear feet. You'll also have between 2,900 linear feet of embankment restoration on the south boundary of Construction Unit 1, along with a little weir which is proposed at this point.

Some of the problems within the area are, of course shoreline erosion which is occurring along the lake itself, which is approximately 15 feet per year. Fifteen (15) to twenty (20) feet per year has been measured by USGS photo analysis on the lake side. And we're also experiencing marsh deterioration within the interior. We attribute the marsh deterioration within the interior to -- you heard Quinn talk about marine environment interacting with the fresh intermediate environment. That's exactly what's happening within this area. We've got saltwater conditions which are derived from Lake Mechant and this area south, encroaching into this area here, which is fresh, intermediate marsh, which is, I guess, could be the certain major cause of the marsh loss within this area. And then you also have your natural conditions, sea-level rise and subsidence.

All the CWPPRA SOP requirements have been met and they're listed here. I went through during the Technical Committee meeting and I won't repeat it. Some of the advantages of this project, relative to other projects under consideration for this year's funding are that this is the lowest cost project on the list, at \$2.5 million. It's also the initial attention to a critical area. There has been, as of yet, no money, Federal or State money, spent in the length of that area on the coast of Lake Decade. It's all been a source of private funds in the past that has been used to maintain the levee around this lake. In many cases, the levee serves as a hydrologic barrier between the lake and interior marsh areas where you've had serious degradation of interior marsh of which, you have up to 50 to 60% of open water within some of these systems. It has a high prioritization score, the second highest prioritization score on the list of projects for

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consideration, at 73.45. The reason being, we've got 207 acres of benefited area in this particular project. Along with it's low cost, it is the main reason why we've got such a high prioritization score. We have 100% landowner support, we have two landowners that are involved with this particular project, both of which have already indicated they are willing to sign land rights instruments and easements for this particular project as soon as it gets approved for funding.

The rapid loss of fresh intermediate marsh is how I described before. We've got a saltwater intrusion problem within this system and, of course, we see that indicative across the coast as to what saltwater problems have caused in other areas of the state. It's one of the very few areas in Terrebonne Parish and Terrebonne region that we've actually got a fresh intermediate marsh left in our open marsh area. There's an immediate need -- this is Lake Decade here. This is Bayou Decade on the western side, and this is our levee that exists now. What you see behind the levee is vegetative plantings that both the Louisiana districts and landowners have attempted to provide protection for the levee on both sides, unsuccessfully on this side, some success on the west side. But you can still see very narrow sections of levee that are in danger of breaching. In Hurricane Andrew, this section here of the levee breached and remained opened for about three months. The landowners had of course, immediately gave it their attention because with the interchange between the lake and interior areas, they could obviously see the problem that could be caused with the interchange between the lake and interior areas. The problem is not so much with water leaving the lake getting into the interior. But this area right here is what served as a freshwater head to encroaching saltwater from the south and from the west. Also let me mention that the photographs that we're looking at are 1998 photographs, and there's been considerable more loss within those areas than what's indicated on the photographs themselves. And of course, you can see here what interface we have between the lake.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any questions? Sir?

RANDY HANCHEY:

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Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

You know Loland, just like you -- this map is -- this picture is dated May 2004, so is this a 2004 photo or this is a six year old photo?

LOLAND BROUSSARD:

No Randy. That's the actual dated photograph.

RANDY HANCHEY:

The other thing is, it seems to me this picture sort of speaks a thousand words. I really, in my own mind, have a hard time understanding what's the benefit of putting a rock dike out in front of this just to protect this little sliver of land. What is the condition of the water in Lake Decade?

It is fresh, saline?

LOLAND BROUSSARD:

It's basically fresh. We had -- DNR and NRCS in a combined effort, had two monitoring stations set up. One was already set up in the lake itself, which is right -- you can barely see this platform. There was a USGS platform data collection unit, and we compared salinities here with a data collection platform that DNR established on the south side, and it was from December of 2000 to December of 2001 that we did a data collection between the two areas. And looking at cumulative total within those 13 months, the average salinities in the lake were approximately two parts per thousand fresher than what we were seeing within this interior area. The lake, for the most part, is fresh.

RANDY HANCHEY:

I guess, you know, it just seems like to me that we've already lost that area, and putting a dike out there is not going to have a whole lot to do with -- it might preserve that sliver of land for a while, but it doesn't seem to me it's going to have any particular beneficial effect on the area south of that.

LOLAND BROUSSARD:

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The biggest benefit, from what I can gather, is you can see some submerged aquatics already within the back area. The Environmental Workgroup gave the benefits -- the majority of the benefits to this project by, I guess keeping the hydrologic division between the lake and the interior area. Again, not so much as water coming from the lake to the inside, to this interior, but we had this discrete sample showing salinities of twelve to fourteen parts per thousand in this immediate area. And this being fresh intermediate marsh, of course it can't sustain that high salinity. One of the problems we can see with the loss of this small sliver of land is the further encroachment of salinities into this area here. As I've mentioned before, this acts as a freshwater head from these high salinities encroaching within that system.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Okay.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Any additional comments from the Task Force?

Any comments from the public on this project?

NOLAN BERGERON:

Chairman, members, I'm Nolan Bergeron. I'm the Chairman of the Coastal Zone Management, Coastal Restoration Division in Terrebonne Parish. I want to stand here and speak in support of this project. We have two natural processes in Terrebonne and that's subsidence and sea level rise. We need all the help we can get. Once that salt water encroaches in that area, it is going to be too late for the Parish. We ask that y'all please consider this. Thank you.

JAMES MILLER:

Good afternoon. I'm James Miller, CZM Administrator for Terrebonne. This is one of the projects that's one of the most critical areas of Terrebonne. And we would ask you to support this project. Thank you.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Mr. Saia, next project?

JOHN SAIA:

Yes, sir. The next speaker is Mr. Andy Tarver, and he's going to be speaking on GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne.

ANDY TARVER:

Good afternoon. My name is Andy Tarver with NRCS. I'm presenting the GIWW Bankline Restoration Project. The project goal is to enable the GIWW to act as a conveyance channel, directing freshwater flows to the east, and also to protect the marshes to the south that are connected to the Intracoastal, while stopping a 15 foot a year erosion rate. This is an overview of the project area. Houma is in this area, Morgan City and Amelia is here. A zoomed in version of the project area. I want to state that the benefits of this project are based solely on the shoreline erosion rate. They do not take into account the vast protection that's going to be provided to this floating marsh from the southern shores of Intracoastal.

This shows the segments of the actual rock dike that will be constructed as protection. As you can see, some of the areas are almost completely blown out. The next slide will focus on this little peninsula here. This was a project that was conducted by the landowner, a spoil bank restoration. This is a zoomed in version of that little point. You can see how some of the areas are blown out here and here. The next few slides will show how the project helps this area. This is a shot of one of those blown out sections, an overview of the point looking back. This is, I think, the bank line restoration or the spoil bank restoration was around the complete island or point here. This shows the spoil bank shortly after it was put in place. The next slide will show -- this is that spoil bank area. You can see how the vegetation behind it, how quickly it recovered.

This is an overview of the original project and the current project. It's actually 41,000 feet of rock dike. It will be a composite in some areas of poor soil conditions. The project Phase II approval is 20.4 million dollars. As I said, the net acres benefited, that 366 figure, that's based solely on the shoreline erosion rate. It does have a lower prioritization score, but, as I said, it doesn't take into account the floating marsh that's out there that it will actually protect.

This is just a brief listing of the checklist items. They have all been met. And why would we need to fund this project this year? As I said before, there's fragile floating marsh that's being destroyed to the south of the project. The wave erosion, moving the water in and out of this system, the increased velocities, they've just ripped the floating marsh out into the Intracoastal and it has shifted downstream and it's lost. The 15 foot a year erosion rate, this project will stop that. It will enhance a component of the LCA near-term critical restorations feature by enabling the Intracoastal water further to the east, and it will maintain a vital transportation thoroughfare. Any questions?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Questions or comments? Hearing none, thank you.

Any comments by the public on behalf of this project?

JAMES MILLER:

James Miler, Terrebonne CZM. This is a good project for many areas that are in critical need. The vessel traffic on this canal is just eating up our marshes and we would like to get this project to move forward. Thank you.

NOLAN BERGERON:

I'm Nolan Bergeron, Chairman of the Coastal Zone Management, Coastal Restoration Advisory Committee. Get me on record supporting this project. The local government also went on record as supporting this project on the Lake Decade. Thank you.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you.

GEORGE STRAIN:

Good afternoon. My name is George Strain, I'm vice-president of Continental Land & Fur. We're the majority landowner affected by this project in northern Terrebonne Parish and the upper Penchant Basin. The Intracoastal cut through our property back in the '30s and '40s and this particular area is a freshwater full-time marsh is polyorganic. Initially it was dredged to a width of 125 feet, and now in most areas it's over a 1,000, 1,500 feet in width. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service documented this problem in a paper in 1989 and proposed bank stabilization in this same area. Nothing's happened to-date. The project TE-43 projects 366 acres of benefited area; 366 acres will be benefited. And that's just based on the bank line erosion. And that's not all the problem here. Andy showed you the benefits of our bank stabilization and it protected and enhanced and restored many more acres. At the Technical Committee meeting in September we distributed pictures of floating marsh that actually escaped through the breaches or gaps from the lack of bank of Intracoastal. I don't know if you've been supplied those pictures but this has been happening for decades. So we're losing this acreage and it's not calculated in the amount of acreage to be protected. So if it would be, the cost per acre would come down drastically and this project would have a higher rating.

Again, our bank stabilization has been successful but it's dredged material, so it doesn't last. We need to go back every two years because of the heavy commercial traffic. So you need a structural retainer that's called for in this project to have a lasting impact. Obviously Continental Land & Fur is support of this project, also Terrebonne Parish. The land rights could be finalized quickly, and this is also consistent with LCA -- one of the tentatively selected plans call for stabilizing GIWW for conveyance of water to northern Terrebonne Parish. Thank you.

COLONEL ROWAN:

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All right. Mr. Saia, next project?

JOHN SAIA:

Okay. The next speaker is Ms. Martha Segura, and she will be talking on North Lake Mechant. As I indicated before, she will be talking about, also the revised estimate.

MARTHA SEGURA:

Hi. As Mr. Saia says, I'm Martha Segura with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and I know everybody's been eagerly awaiting this. Just a little project background around this project, which was approved for Phase I funding on the 10th Priority Project List in January 2001. We did break out one small construction unit, consisting of eight miles of shoreline vegetative plantings. That was completed in June of 2003. We are currently seeking Phase II construction funding for Construction Unit 2, which contains the bulk of the project features.

At the Technical Committee meeting in September this project was ranked fifth by vote of the Technical Committee. And as a result, the Phase II funding request has been modified as was discussed at the Technical Committee so that we could fit the project into the available funding. And I will go through in detail and explain how we did this.

This is the project area. It's in Terrebonne Parish, here's Lake Mechant. Just below that is Sister Lake. Very saline environment, lots of oyster productivity. As Loland mentioned, Lake Mechant is a fairly marine environment. And this project is located just along the north shore of Lake Mechant, actually right next to the South Lake Decade Project. The project area that's at the north shore of Lake Mechant and the Small Bayou La Pointe natural levee form a critical landbridge between the easily eroded fresh marshes to the north and the more marine environment of Lake Mechant. Marsh loss rates are relatively high in this area and the area was heavily impacted both by Hurricane Andrew and again by Hurricane Lili. The goal of the project is projected to restore the marshes along this north shore and the Small Bayou La Pointe ridge. And this project uses several strategies included dedicated dredging to recreate marsh

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along the north shore of the lake in key areas and the construction of several closing channels that threaten the integrity of the marsh.

This is a land loss map that's only current through 1990. But this landbridge area right here you can see that even before the hurricanes that happened in the '90's, this area has experienced a high rate of loss. And as Loland pointed out, a large reason for that is the higher saline waters have been able to penetrate into this fresh and intermediate marsh and it's falling apart very rapidly.

Just to illustrate, I guess the vegetative types here reflect the salinity environments. This is the vegetative type map from 1997. Again, here's Lake Mechant, this white line is the project boundary, this is Small Bayou La Pointe Bridge. Just for some perspective, this is the area of the South Lake Decade Project. This supplemental area of our project is actually located within the Brady Canal Project, which is a constructed CWPPRA project. So all of these projects work together.

Anyway, so you can see here, along Lake Mechant you have this brackish marsh, and it extends north of the bridge a little bit, and then you have intermediate marsh and very close by, fresh marsh. This distance between the brackish marsh and the fresh marsh is less than two miles. So there's a very rapid salinity change in this area.

If you look at the 2001 vegetation types, this was during the drought years. You can see that the brackish marsh line has moved way north, in particular, on this side of the project area. And this is where we have some large cuts through Small Bayou La Pointe Bridge. This cut in particular is about 15 feet deep and carries a lot of water. This is the area that -- this is where there's a lot of saltwater coming into this normally intermediate area.

This is a picture of the north shore of Lake Mechant taken in July of 2000. Here's the lake, this is what's left of the lakeshore. This is the condition of the marshes to the north of the lake. And

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it just deteriorates as you go north from here. There's very little marsh left in the area. There's very little lake rim left in the area. You can see here there's already an area that's threatening to breach.

This is a picture that we took in November of 2002, same lake shoreline. There is Lake Mechant. These are the marshes, this is what's left along the lakeshore and this picture's already two years old.

This is another shot of the project area, same time, November 2002. This is Lake Mechant, Goose Bay. These areas of broken marsh are where we're proposing to do marsh creation. This is one of the deeper cuts that carries a lot of saltwater to the north. This cut right here is approximately ten feet deep. So these cuts carry a lot of water, bring a lot of saltwater up into those intermediate marsh areas.

This is a map showing the project features as the project was originally presented to the Technical Committee in September. And I'll start on the east side and work my way to the west, showing the project features. On the northeast side here, there is a plug in this location canal. That plug was not originally part of this project; it was originally part of the South Lake Decade project. But when the South Lake Decade Project was split into two construction units, that plug was relegated to Construction Unit 2. And since that location canal was -- we had designed our project to complement the South Lake Decade Project and move up to that project. We knew that this project would be moving forward to request construction probably before Construction Unit 2 of South Lake Decade. So we worked with NRCS, and for a while, I think we carried in both projects just to make sure it would be included somewhere. But anyway, so this plug was added after the original authorization of this project. Then as you work your way down the bridge this is another area, a weak point in the bridge, there's your earthen plug there. This is that 15 foot deep channel. There's a rock plug in there. These areas in yellow are where we're proposing to do marsh creation. They're all located in areas where the landbridge or the Small Bayou La Pointe Levee Bridge is very narrow and threatening to break through. There's a

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couple of other little plugs, there's some cuts in here and this is a pipeline that comes through here. Now between Lake Mechant and Raccourci Bay, is this winding bayou, called Bayou Raccourci, which is normally the only natural connection between Lake Mechant and this area to the north. This bayou is threatening to break through right in these areas where we're proposing to do marsh creation. If that bayou breaks through it becomes a straight, very efficient, much more efficient channel than it is now. And we feel that will also exacerbate the salinity intrusion problems in that area, which is why we have those marsh creations there.

This feature right there is an existing weir that is in disrepair, and so this project will repair that weir. And then there are a couple more structures along here to the west. This is that plug that I pointed out to you where that channel is about ten feet deep. So this is the project as we had originally presented it.

Now, after the Technical Committee, we were tasked to go see what we could go with this project budget. And we decided to take the two projects attached to this and not only look at what we could do construction wise, but look at every component of the project budget, as well as our other CWPPRA projects and what we could do with those projects to return money back into the program. So first we looked at our non-construction related items. We reduced our own Federal S&A for Phase II, by a significant amount. And we were able to do this because the total equation in the spreadsheets just -- because it's based on construction costs, really gave us an overestimate of what we needed to get the project through Phase II. And, anyway, so we were able to reduce that. We were also able to reduce our Phase II land rights budget, that budget is designed to pay for our oyster lease impacts. We kept in the budget twice the appraised value of all the leases that could be impacted by this project, so we still have ample money left in the budget to pay for our oyster impacts.

Then we looked at construction related changes, and what we did as a team was, the DNR engineers, is we looked at in more detail, the geotech analysis and how we had determined fill height. And this is something that was discussed at the 95% design review meeting, so it wasn't

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a new idea. But we had based our estimated fill height on sort of the average settlement curves that we received from the Geotech firm. What we did was we went back and looked at each individual one and related it to the individual marsh creation fill areas and looked at which ones had better Geotech associated with it and where we could reduce the fill height to six inches and still achieve marsh elevation. And by doing that we were able to -- I'll show you the map in a minute where those are. We were able to save almost two million dollars on the estimate without reducing the number of acres of marsh that we were creating. One 40 acre marsh creation cell, we're not dropping it from the project, we want to move it to an additive alternate in the bid package so that if the bids come in low enough we may still be able to afford to build it. But removing that 40 acre cell saved us another two million dollars. So here's a slide again of the project features. I want to point out our construction changes; we didn't change our assumptions about contingencies. Our contingencies remain the same; our unit costs remain the same. I must admit when we first were looking at what we could cut from the project, this plug was number one on the list. Since it hadn't originally been part of the project, common sense prevailed and we realized it's important to maintain the integrity of that landbridge that's a part of the project. So the plug stays in, every plug stays in, we're not changing any of those other features. The areas marked in blue is where we determined that we knew we could reduce the fill height by six inches. The 40 acre marsh creation cell that will be relegated to an additive alternate, is this one here, that we felt, compared to the other ones, was north of the main part of the landbridge. And we know that this marsh is going to already be protected by some of these plugs that we're putting in here, so we felt this was not a big loss to the integrity of the original project.

So just to look at a summary of the project changes. When I say original, this is what was presented to the Tech Committee, revised is what I'm presenting today. We reduced the fully funded cost by 14%, decreased our Phase II Increment I request by 15% while only reducing the number of acres that we're creating by 7.6%, which only results in a 6% decrease in the net acres. So this is not a significant, according to the CWPPRA SOP, a significant change in the project, a 25% change in the scope or cost. So we don't feel this is a significant change. And

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actually, if you look at the prioritization score, we had a 53.1, it's now up to a 57.9. And that's largely because of this difference in, you know, we saved 15% of this money and only lost 6% of the benefits. So our score went up in the cost effective score.

As I mentioned, the other thing we did was we reviewed a lot of our other CWPPRA projects, cleaned up our budgets, returned money to the program where we could. We had a demonstration project that we were able to close out. We reconciled some Phase I costs for projects that had requests for Phase II authorization. We de-obligated some other S&A funds for more projects. Now I just want to point out these funds are available to the program as a whole. That's one of the reasons when Gay presented how much money we were coming into this meeting with, was three point something million, which is more than what we started with at the Tech Committee, and that's because of this money that we freed up. So the combined result of freeing up some funds and reducing project costs, means that this project can be now constructed within the CWPPRA -- within the budget, and still maintain a positive balance.

Just a quick review of the checklist of Phase II requirements. We've finished our requirements. We have our permits in-hand. We have the support of the landowners, and we've completed all those tasks.

So this is a crucial question, why do we need to fund this project now? To restore a critical landbridge which will continue to deteriorate at a high rate of loss without this project. If this landbridge falls apart more than it is today, it will be much more difficult and much more expensive to restore the landbridge. It has strong public support. I think there are ten letters or so in the Task Force binders, of support. And I don't think those letters include the letters from the landowners or the parish. Those are just other concerned citizens that support the project.

Another nice thing about this project is it works in conjunction with other authorized CWPPRA projects. This is a really critical and rapidly eroding part of Terrebonne Parish. These projects all work together. The one project that I haven't mentioned yet is this Penchant Basin plan. That

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plan should bring more freshwater down into this whole area. So if we can recreate some of the marsh that's been lost, and the Penchant Project can come on line to bring some more freshwater down there, we have double benefits from both projects. And, in fact, I believe that the modeling for the Penchant Project assumed that intact landbridge, when they were looking at the hydrologic benefits of that project. So all these projects work together.

It was the number one ranked project by three of the voting agencies when the Technical Committee voted. And it could be funded within the available budget, while leaving a small cushion in the CWPPRA program.

I'll just leave you with another shot from that November 2002 slide of that eroded marsh, and the table, again, of some of those figures, comparing what we presented to the Technical Committee and what our revised figures are. I would just like to point out, I know there's some concern about revising projects, kind of on the fly, and I agree that's a concern. But I think in this case we've been able to do a good job and if the prioritization score is any indication, we have a more cost effective project, while still maintaining the integrity and the benefits of the project. And I guess if this was a different meeting we might be saying this is adaptive management or value engineering, something like that. So there it is. Thank you.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any questions?

MIGUEL FLORES:

Thank you. Could you speak more to the interrelationship between this project and the one we heard earlier about South Lake Decade? You mentioned it in your presentation. Could you help me understand a little bit more, the integration of those two projects?

MARTHA SEGURA:

This is our project area. The South Lake Decade Project area, the boundary that Loland pointed

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out comes down this canal. This is the spoil bank that they're proposing to rebuild, this is part of Construction Unit 1, this is Small Bayou La Pointe Bridge, and Lake Decade is sitting right up here. So this is their project area right here and this is our project area here. They completely join each other. Actually, there's a little overlap now because our boundary incorporates that plug now. But they were designed to completely abut up to each other.

MIGUEL FLORES:

What I was trying to get at is what is the benefit of one with the other? I mean, if you have just one project alone versus -- you know, what's the advantage of doing one as opposed to the other or what's the advantage of doing both --

MARTHA SEGURA:

I can tell you what the advantages are of the North Lake Mechant Project. I think the big advantage here is this opening, everybody in Terrebonne Parish recognizes the big saltwater culprit for this area. You know, I took salinities out here during the drought. Right here you have fourteen parts per thousand. And up here in Bayou Decade you have three parts per thousand. And this, you know, as the vegetation lines pointed out, this salinity is (inaudible), so this plug takes care of the saltwater source for a large area. What the South Lake Decade Project does is recognize that salt is a problem and draws the line right here to make sure that this marsh in here does not receive that saltwater. Am I correct Loland? I don't want to speak for your project but.... So they work hand in hand. They're both addressing an issue. I would say that this project, as the budget reflects, takes a bigger chunk of the area that deals with it.

MIGUEL FLORES:

I recognize that. Is there a synergy here, that I'm looking for, you know, in terms of --

MARTHA SEGURA:

Yes. There definitely is a synergy. And there's also a synergy if Construction Unit 2 of South Lake Decade would introduce - when there's freshwater available from Lake Decade, would

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introduce that into this area. With the North Lake Mechant Project in place, that freshwater would be more likely to stay in this area and benefit this marsh and not shoot out salinities, so that they are synergetic.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Thank you.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Are there questions?

If we had \$22 million available funding, would the prioritization score go up again? My question is: we've optimized? Or would that give you a dollar amount?

MARTHA SEGURA:

No. In fact, we were concerned when we were asked to look at what we could do with the budget. Because this is -- this whole concept is a landbridge concept. You can't gut the project and accomplish the goals in the project. We were not willing to do that. So, you know, I think you would reach a point -- and at this point I don't think you could remove any of the big ticket items, which is the dedicated dredging and maintaining integrity of the landbridge. So, no, I don't think -- as long as you can keep reducing features your benefits would start going down.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So basically the optimal point?

MARTHA SEGURA:

I would think so. I don't think that I can stand up here and say I couldn't in good faith look at any of these other marsh creation areas and say that we could eliminate them and maintain the integrity of those projects or the landbridge, and I wouldn't propose it.

SIDNEY COFFEE:

Well I think it's remarkable, how much we saved when it was looked at. I guess my question is, I'm wondering why that's not done -- I know the Corps has been asking everyone to be looking at all projects and how much can be saved and what can be done to bring costs down. And it's startling to me that it was done at this moment, which shows me, on a positive note that there is a lot more that could be done, hopefully for all projects for that matter. I'm a little concerned with what this does to the process though. You know, do we spend every penny that's in there and change projects at the end to make sure that we're fitting them to, you know, the amount of money that's left or what? I mean I have some concerns with the integrity of the process. And what's to stop a lot of projects for the last minute unknown change or, you know, phased into several phase or whatever. Randy, you might want to --

MARTHA SEGURA:

Can I? Just one thing about this project in particular --

SIDNEY COFFEE:

Yeah.

MARTHA SEGURA:

Half of our savings came from something that was not new to the table. We had already looked at and said, what about this fill height, what should we do, and -- so that was already on the table. So, it's not like, you know, we started from scratch on these changes. These were things we had already discussed.

RANDY HANCHEY:

You know, let me just say that the -- I guess I share some of Sidney's concerns that the fact is, I don't want to use words like amazing, because maybe that's not the right word, but it certainly is a surprise to me that we have been routinely providing administrative S&A costs to people and find that it's resulting in a formula that really doesn't necessarily reflect the true S&A costs of

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the project. Look at the number of projects that we've authorized and many, many of which have not been built yet. There must be or might be a lot of money out there that might even finance this project all by itself if everybody did what was done on this project. And I guess it's a little -- it does raise some questions in your mind about, not so much about this project, but about the overall process that we have, that when faced with a tight budget constraint, we are willing to take a look at projects and move them toward a more optimum configuration.

I would say to you that, listening to your presentation, I feel a lot more comfortable. I think you did an excellent job in presenting the project and explaining and rationalizing it and a lot of my concerns about playing fast and loose with costs I think have been alleviated to some extent. What went on in this project, in my mind, it ought to be the kind of critical thinking about projects, critical evaluation of projects that we had anticipated would take place at 35 and 95% design, and we would, in fact, see projects that were more economic and more cost effective as a result. I think someone asked the right question about where this fits on this difficult curve in terms of the cost effectiveness. I'm reasonably convinced after listening to your presentation, that you've got this project about right. I think you took -- you eliminated the right or the correct area when you look at the ones that are available. I think reducing the elevation of fill is a good strategy. I think we have seen in the past that we've probably overestimated the requirement for a fill. If you can (inaudible) where the marsh will rebuild itself, it may accommodate some of the sediment we're talking about. And I think what this project suffered from, at least in the minds of people like me and probably Sidney as we had this almost interminable string of emails back and forth on this project, this discussion among the Technical Committee was going on, it really appeared that corners were being cut and reductions being made. But there's nothing due to sacred that couldn't be compromised in order to get this project on the list.

And the concern was expressed by several people that there is something wrong with having a surplus carry over in the construction account. You know, I never shared that. It seemed to me that having a surplus of some percent of the total size of the program was a good thing. We've got projects coming up for next year. We've got projects that we are now building, and some

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that we are ready to go to construction on and may increase the cost. And this would provide us a cushion to take care of any cost overruns, high priority opportunities that might come up. But I don't think the issue of whether or not we need to spend every nickel, or commit every nickel, is really the right issue. I guess I -- I really don't know how I feel about the project now. I just will say to you I feel a lot better about it after your explanation than I did coming in this morning.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Other comments. Thank you.

Any public comments on this project?

JAMES MILLER:

James Miller, Coastal Management, Terrebonne Parish. The purpose of this project is to protect and restore portions along the northern shore of Lake Mechant and Bayou La Pointe Bridge. These marshes form a critical landbridge barrier for one of the easily eroded critical marshes to the north and brackish waters and marine process of Lake Mechant to the south. The project area; through the estuarine wetlands, estuarine mud and sand and shell; under the preferred alternative, shoreline erosion will be reduced, marsh will be created, and deterioration of interior marsh is reduced. The project area provides forging habitat for both bald eagles and brown pelicans. The project will increase estuarine functional value and wetland area, thereby increasing productivity of estuarine dependent fishes for which eagles and brown pelicans feed. The total project will be reduced to accommodate the budget. Terrebonne Parish Government is asking the Task Force to reconsider and place this project on the list for funding to the next phase.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. Of the Terrebonne projects, to include Raccoon Island, what is the order of priority in Terrebonne Parish?

JAMES MILLER:

To tell you the truth, we didn't know all of these projects would be brought up today. We didn't prepare anything. And this project and they are both very important projects. They're both critical areas.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. And they rate ahead of the other two? South Lake Decade and GIWW?

JAMES MILLER:

Well, the Lake Mechant Project, I think it enhances South Lake Decade, so it's a tough decision to call on.

COLONEL ROWAN:

It certainly is. Welcome to the club.

Any other comments?

NOLAN BERGERON:

I'm Nolan Bergeron, Chairman of Coastal Zone Management and Coastal Restoration Advisory Committee. I'm here to strongly support this project. This has to be our number one priority. It's bigger, it covers more area. We're talking about a landbridge that could be breached, will bring salt water into a very valuable freshwater marsh. And once it gets in there, believe me, with the flotant we have in there and the amount of the freshwater marsh, it would be like hitting that with a (inaudible). It's going to kill it. And then maybe we'll never be able to save it. And it's so important that we save some of that marsh. If we can't save it, we're at risk of hurricanes, all types of surges, tidal surges. We need to start protecting the marshes, freshwater marsh, intermediate marshes, to the north, and at the same time trying to rebuild our saltwater marsh. And I'm going to plead with y'all to really consider this and to please vote for this project. We need it very badly. We're at the mercy of nature right now. Once that saltwater comes in there,

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it's going to carry that marsh out and we're going to be faced with another process and it's not going to be a positive one. Thank y'all very much for y'all time.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you.

MARK ROGERS:

My name is Mark Rogers. I've been a lifelong resident of Terrebonne Parish since I was six years old. My father raised me in those marshes and I've seen the loss with my own eyes. I don't know what the land -- or what the erosion rate on the bank of North Lake Mechant is, but I can tell you that land loss behind the north side of Lake Mechant is. I consider it to be one of the hottest spots for land loss in South Louisiana and I would strongly support this project. You know, from a prioritization standpoint, yeah I support all three projects in Terrebonne Parish. I think this is probably the most critical one. The other one by NRCS, I like it too. It puts freshwater through that lake into that area on occasion. And I know that's going to work because I know Lake Decade at times gets a lot of freshwater in it. I like the Intracoastal project also because I think it's going to help divert water through, right down the Houma Navigation Canal, and we know we need freshwater down there also. But this particular project, North Lake Mechant Project, besides benefiting and creating 500-something acres of marsh, it's going to benefit thousands of acres of land to the north of it. And again, it's a complimentary project to the one that NRCS is doing. It's a complimentary project to the one that was done, I think, on the north side of Bayou Decade to the north. And of course, you know, during the hunting season I drive that route every weekend, and I've seen the benefits that's accrued as a result of the shoreline protection that was done on the north side of Bayou Decade. And I can see all those benefits accruing north of this Lake Mechant Project and marshes north of Lake Mechant. So, yes, I strongly support it. I think it's a very worthwhile project. If there is any way you guys can fund it this year, I'd certainly appreciate it. And if not this year, maybe next year, but certainly as soon as possible because the longer we wait, the more it's going to cost. Thank you.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Next project.

JOHN SAIA:

Okay. The next speaker is Mr. Kevin Roy, and he's going to be speaking on Dedicated Dredging on Barataria Basin Landbridge.

KEVIN ROY:

Thank you John. Just to orient you on where this project is located; New Orleans is here. Here are the communities of Barataria and Lafitte. This is the project area, which is located at the southern end of Bayou Perot and Bayou Rigolettes north of Little Lake. The idea behind this project, which is a marsh creation project, is to fill these areas here hashed in yellow. The idea is basically to complement the ongoing projects on the Barataria Basin Landbridge. To complement the shoreline protection project that you heard about earlier in this region here, and to further, I guess, run up the tab on the Barataria Basin Landbridge. As these projects are built as shoreline protection, the intent of this project is to fill in behind those shoreline protection projects, to create some marsh to try to address these two critical areas on the landbridge. This is pretty much, as you heard in previous discussions on this area, this is pretty much the bottleneck where a lot of exchange on the upper fresher part of the basin down to the lower saltier part of the basin. This is pretty much the bottleneck through which it occurs. I think with shoreline protection only, I think it's well recognized that these marshes are going to continue to deteriorate in these two areas at a fairly high loss rate of about 2% per year. Thus, this project was proposed. Our intent is to dredge these areas cross hashed in blue in Bayou Perot here and Bayou Rigolettes, and fill these two sites. Containment will be used on the backside of these sites wherever necessary, wherever the marsh doesn't serve as an adequate containment. And then also on the southern boundary here and along this southern boundary we'll also have containment. And the idea is that we will use the shoreline protection features of the BA-27 project as containment on the bayou side.

And this is one of those features which you saw a slide of earlier. This is a concrete panel wall. The construction unit that we're waiting on is Construction Unit 4. So basically Construction Unit 4 of BA-27 would have to be constructed before we could begin filling the areas here behind it. Construction Unit 4, NRCS Project, is expected to begin in January of 2005. These are features of the BA-27 Project Construction Unit 2, which have already been completed within our project area. Again, we intend to use this rock dike also for containment and fill in these areas behind here.

Just a quick checklist of the Phase II requirements. Cost share agreements, land rights, 30% design, 95% design, draft EA sent out, permits expected later this month. Our revised fully funded cost for this project is right at \$36.2 million. The Phase II request is 33.7. Prioritization score is 61, which I believe ranks it fifth of these projects up for consideration here today.

Now the bottom line question that we were asked to answer, why we need to fund this project now? Well, for this project, to be honest it's not critical that we fund this project at this time. Because again, as I mentioned, we depend -- we're dependent upon Construction Unit 4 of BA-27 being completed. Our worst case scenario is that that project would not be completed until June of 2006. If that's the case then obviously we can wait until next October to receive Phase II approval. However, I will present this best case scenario, is if the BA-27 project completes their shoreline protection around our fill site 1, which is our westernmost area, that amount of shoreline protection is about 25% of Construction Unit 4. If that would be completed first, perhaps we could work with our contractor on the shoreline protection project and with our contractor, to perhaps start our construction earlier. Perhaps late 2005 or early 2006. If we wait until next October to approve the project, then basically it wouldn't allow us to begin late next year for an early construction start, I think. Again, this project, it does restore a critical area on the landbridge. I think this area specifically is not going to be maintained with shoreline protection features alone. I won't go so far to say that our shoreline protection features are just going to be white elephants one day, but I think with the high erosion rates that these areas are experiencing, I think that a marsh creation project is needed to help maintain the integrity of

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where this area kind of bottlenecks.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Questions? Any comments on behalf of the project?

MIGUEL FLORES:

I'm sorry. The longer this day goes the more confused I get. But I heard you say that even with the BA-27 project that they would still be experiencing the 2% land loss per year? Whereas in an earlier presentation I heard that we were actually having a net gain of four hundred and seventy some odd acres. I'm trying to -- what am I not understanding here?

KEVIN ROY:

Well I guess, first of all let me, I guess, address what these net gain figures that you're seeing really are. I mean basically what those figures are, acres of marsh that will be protected by building the project, as opposed to not building the project. So if a project has 200 net acres, you essentially are going to have 200 more acres of marsh on the ground if you build the project as opposed to not building it. And in regard to your question about the BA-27 project, that project is what's given credit for stopping shoreline erosion in those areas. But beyond the area of affect of those shoreline protection features, our marsh creation sites are going to continue to lose marsh because the interior marsh is going to continue to deteriorate. Those marshes are breaking up probably more from subsidence and ponding. The plant community isn't able to survive under those conditions. Whereas the marshes immediately adjacent to those waterways are being lost more from shoreline erosion.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Thank you.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So I think the answer is the Barataria Landbridge is a 115 million dollar project.

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Any comments from the public on behalf of the project?

MARNIE WINTER:

Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish. This project is another priority project for Jefferson. This area is experiencing some of the worst erosion rates in the State, so we really don't have time to wait and do something here. As was discussed earlier, the landbridge projects are stand alone projects, and they themselves are needed, but, we always planned to put material behind the shoreline protection to sustain the shoreline protection projects and rebuild the landbridge. We first started planning between Bayou Perot and Rigolettes on the 2nd CWPPRA Priority List. At that time the project was to save that peninsula between the two bodies, and through the year, the project has evolved into the landbridge project, and with the plan to put dredged sediments behind the shoreline protection. We understand the Technical Committee's recommendation that construction funds not be tied up until the shoreline protection is in place. But we want to note that the project does have a high ranking on this year's score, and make sure that the project stays in everyone's mine so that next year it's at the top of the list. Thank you.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Priority for Jefferson Parish is which project?

MARNIE WINTER:

This is the Dedicated Dredging on the Landbridge.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I understand. Between the landbridge project and this, how do you rank the three Barataria projects?

MARNIE WINTER:

You're talking about the first two at the top of this list?

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COLONEL ROWAN:

Right.

MARNIE WINTER:

Construction Unit 5?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Right. And the Dedicated Dredging.

MARNIE WINTER:

The Dedicated Dredging is more of a priority for Jefferson, but all three of them are important. The Landbridge is one unit. I think it makes more sense to do that first one at this time. We would like to see the Dedicated Dredging done as soon as possible, but it seems like not a good idea to tie up the funds until the shoreline protection is there. But as Kevin said, you know, best case scenario, if they're able to get shoreline protection in and do 25% of that, we'd like to see that. I think Mayor Kerner from Lafitte and our Fisheries Board and the Parish President submitted letters of support on this project. So this is a key project.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Colonel, could I add something? Now I think earlier in the day I asked about what was going to happen behind those walls that are being built in the Barataria Landbridge. And to me it seems that we really do need to, I think, fill in behind them. I think we need to wait until that project is completed because if we start dredging and filling and something happens and you're not able to complete some of the, on time, the Barataria Landbridge, and you're out there and you may actually increase your costs of having to bring in the dredgers, something like that. So I think that this is a very worthwhile project, but it's not -- I don't think, the right time to fund it.

COLONEL ROWAN:

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Sir.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, I guess this is a question for you. It seems we've got a situation here where we're building a staged project. And the optimal schedule, it seems to me, that as you complete reasonable lengths of the shoreline protection that you would then be able to come in and start filling in behind them without having to wait a year or whatever. When we looked at the slides that talk about best and worst case, it's sort of assumed that if it doesn't get approved today it's swept all the way back to October '05. And I guess that's because this Task Force decided that we were going to approve projects for construction once a year. When that discussion was held at the Task Force, my recollection is, or my understanding was, was that under certain extraordinary circumstances there would be nothing to prevent this Task Force from coming in next summer or next spring or whatever. If in fact this project progresses in its construction and that you are convinced that it in fact is timely to do the dredging, that you could, in fact, authorize a project to go to Phase II construction next summer, rather than to wait until October? Is that correct?

COLONEL ROWAN:

As in everything, it kinda sorta depends. But the Task Force has great latitude to establish its rules and change them in accordance with circumstances. So, you know, the overall answer is yes, the Task Force could approve projects out of cycle. Do we necessarily want to do that? Perhaps not. But if there is an overriding consideration where there is more damage that could be done or more benefit that could be gained by doing that, that is one of the benefits of this program. Like you said, we don't have to go back to Congress on a bi-annual cycle for a Water Resources Bill, that doesn't happen. These can be conferred or approved in an emergency meeting of the Task Force without even waiting if necessary. And it's my understanding that the Task Force can do that.

All right. Next project.

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JOHN SAIA:

Our next speaker is Mr. Chris Monnerjohn, and he's going to be speaking on the Grand Lake Shoreline Protection Project. Chris?

CHRIS MONNERJAHN:

My project for the day is Grand Lake Shoreline Protection. The project overview; first of all, it's located in Region 4 in the Mermentau Basin in Cameron Parish. All of the south shore of Grand Lake and the area of the problem here is an average shoreline erosion rate of 25 feet per year. This project's solution here is construction of approximately 37,800 linear feet of rock dike that would stretch from Superior Canal to the mouth of Catfish Lake, with an option to place up to an additional 5,700 linear feet of dike around Tebo Point to the west of the base project footprint. And again, the goals here are to stop shoreline erosion, as well as to promote some accretion between the breakwater and the shore.

This project map basically shows Grand Lake shown on the northern part of the map. And there's the Superior Canal right on this side, the eastern side, and this is where the project was originally supposed to end right here. The option of 5,700 linear feet of rock dike kind of wraps Tebo Point, that little island right there, and that's what we calling an option reach. So we're going to propose another rock dike shoreline protection offshore that runs the length right along there.

Project benefits, the project for the base reach is 445 acres of existing fresh marsh, 770 acres of open water. And as far as at the end of the 20 year project life, we have a net acres benefited of 495 acres. If you opt to fund the additional extension around Tebo Point, then you're looking at additional net acres of 45, and then all total the project would protect and create over 540 acres of marsh. Also there is something I wanted to point out. In those 540 acres we are not taking into account the marsh that we would be creating by casting the material we'd be excavating for the flotation channel behind the rock dike. That would be an extra about 90 acres of marsh that

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would be created. So we're not actually claiming the credit for that, but we are doing it, so if you add that to the total, you're looking at 630 acres of marsh.

The project with Tebo Point extension, which is what we're proposing here, is a totally fully funded cost of 15.2 million dollars, and the project without the Tebo Point extension is 13.8.

This spreadsheet, if you will insert compares the project without the option versus with the option. The main things I wanted to point out was the length, that's an increase of 5,700 linear feet, project benefits increased, you know, when you extend the project further by 45 net acres. That's an increase of 9.1%. Increase of 1.37 million dollars, and the total fully funded cost, which is a 9.9% increase in cost. So it's a 9.1% increase in benefits and a 9.9% increase in cost.

Now how does this project now compare with the way it was originally approved on PPL11?

And the main thing I wanted to point out was that obviously it's the increase in the net acres and total fully funded cost went up 12.1%. But remember, a large portion of that is actually due to the increase of the wrap around Tebo Point, which is well within that 25% kind of scope.

Now how does Grand Lake compare? I really just kind of looked at the three projects that didn't make the Tech Committee's recommendation that tied for three consensus votes. So what I did was I put Grand Lake on there, North Lake Mechant revised, North Lake Mechant original, and GIWW. And I thought it was pretty telling what those Louisiana numbers showed. So I figured I'd share them with you, as the project manager of course. The net acres benefited for Grand Lake is 540, for a cost of 15.2 million dollars. If you jump over to the revised North Lake Mechant Project, you're looking at net acres of 521 for 30.7 million dollars. If you look at the original, it's 553 at 36 million dollars, and then the GIWW Project with 366 at \$25.3 million. Well, I know if I was spending my money I know what I would buy. But I can only tell you what the numbers show. And if you also look at prioritization, it didn't place any stock in the pool that it was developed. Then you have to also look at the grand score here, the prioritization score scored higher, it scored 66.25 in comparison with the rest of those projects.

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So what now? Even if the previous table does not convince you to fund Grand Lake today, I would like to offer a few funding scenarios for Grand Lake. Number one, the best option. Fund the project as it is currently proposed with the Tebo Point extension, again at a cost of 15.2. Today's funding request is Phase II Increment I of 12.4 million dollars. And just to remind you when Julie gets her fancy spreadsheet up there, that's well within the amount of funds and it leaves plenty of money leftover for increases and contingency and what not. Option number two, that is to fund the project without the Tebo Point extension. That changes your funding request today to approximately 11. That's really not what we are seeking but we'll throw that out there as an option. One of my favorite options is option number three, and it is to fund the project with the Tebo Point extension using Darryl Clark's Visa card. Which leads us to what I did at a special request at the Tech Committee meeting is the top ten reasons to fund Grand Lake Shoreline Protection today.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Will this go quickly?

CHRIS MONNERJAHN:

Yes. All right. Number ten, its prioritization score ranks fourth out of a possible 11 projects for approval. Number nine, it has the support of the three agencies, just like North Lake Mechant, and GIWW are. Number eight, the project protects and creates over 540 acres of marsh over the project life. Number seven, it has no oyster issues and can begin construction within six months. Six, I got all my paper work in on time and did not have to revise my project. Number five, the shoreline is eroding at an average rate of 25 feet per year. If we wait until January of '05, we'll lose approximately six acres, you know, till that point, and if we wait one year later we're going to lose approximately 25 acres of land. Number four, it is not broken up into construction units. Number three, there is a rumor that there might be some unique and valuable habitats such as mangroves and numerous pretty nesting birds that the project would protect. Kind of like Raccoon Island later on. Number two, it is more cost effective than the North Lake Mechant and

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GIWW projects. And number one, so I can stop acting like other fellow CWPPRA project managers by crying, begging and groveling for this project.

[APPLAUSE]

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any comments other than the future employment of Chris Monnerjohn?

RUSS WATSON:

Having been here, Chris, through your presentation to the Technical Committee, one of the questions I had asked my staff was how are you going to be able to surpass this? I have to say you did, I'm impressed. But in all seriousness, I think the comparison of Grand Lake and Lake Mechant in a lot of ways happens from the scarcity of funding and competition for those dollars, and I don't want to take away from what you said in saying that. But the fact of the matter is, the Terrebonne marshes are deteriorating at a much more rapid rate. And in that sense, I think that the Lake Mechant Project has a much stronger sense of immediacy and urgency. And that is not to take away from Grand Lake. It's not to say I'm not supportive of, but we can't put it on Darryl's card.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Other comments?

MIGUEL FLORES:

Could you speak a little more to the ecological significance of the project, in terms of what will this do from an ecological perspective? I know you talked about marsh creation, but I understand that from an ecological perspective --

CHRIS MONNERJOHN:

Sure. I think, I mean coming from an engineer, not a biologist, the fundamental ecological

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benefit here is that just the shoreline erosion that you're going to stop. And that's estimated at 25 feet per year. So, you know, if you don't do the project, then the whole net acres benefited, what you see there, is what's going to be lost if the project is not constructed after 20 years, is 540 net acres. Is there a benefit to different types of marshes? I think that's up to really differences of opinion in some of the members of the biological community. So I can't offer anything other than, this project is a rock project, it's going to stop shoreline erosion and at the end of 20 years, we're going to have net acres benefited of 540.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other comments? I will make one in that, wearing my other hat, I have to oversee an LCA report that's coming into final. In August, we went on the public meetings and we went out to Cameron Parish and said: Gee, oh by the way, there are no near-term features located in sub-basin four. But you have several programmatic elements and some demonstration projects and, oh, by the way, there's always CWPPRA, which does a great number of projects in this area. And one of the charges that we have is to make sure that CWPPRA and LCA are compatible, or at least complement each other, not just in the type of projects where we overlap the projects, but also in the areas where projects underlap. And this may be one of those projects that addresses a need in an area of the coast that, in the near-term plan, LCA is not reaching as widely or as broadly as perhaps a coastwide plan may have done. Thank you.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel? Let me just say -- and I don't intend this to be a vote for one project versus the other, at all. But the statement you just made, I want to sort of second. We looked at the near-term plan and realized that they weren't doing anything significant in the Chenier Plains area. The comment to that has been that we have CWPPRA, we have started to build projects in the Chenier Plain area, and one of the functions would be to take care of these kinds of problems while they design and build CWPPRA projects in the area. I think you're right. I don't know what that does to today's decision necessarily. But I think that as a frame of reference for the future, I think that's something we need to take into account.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

Any comments by the public on this project? All right.

Next project please?

JOHN SAIA:

Okay. The next speaker will be Mr. Mike Carloss. And he's going to be speaking on Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection.

MIKE CARLOSS:

First thing I'll start off with, is Colonel, if you give Chris a pink slip, I think he's going to be fine as a used car salesman or an insurance salesman. He's obviously got the knack.

Okay. I'm here to talk about Raccoon Island -- the shoreline protection portion of this project, which is Phase A on TE-48. This is a project map. The main component -- there are two components to this project, is this eastern groin, which is essentially tied from the east end of the island to breakwater zero, which is the existing eight breakwaters which are part of the demo project which was completed in 1997 and also an additional eight breakwaters to the west. And its main function is to protect this vegetative portion of the island.

Just to give you a little brief history, this is a shot of the USGS habitat map from 1978. You can see that the island actually extended, which is now essentially a sand spit. There was a lot of shrub scrub habitat, primarily mangrove habitat. And then here comes Hurricane Andrew, and essentially takes about half of the island away. About five major breaches were formed through the island; the entire western end of the island was essentially decimated. Then through emergency Congressional funds, Wildlife & Fisheries was able to come in, as a result of Hurricane Andrew damage, fill in all the breaches and also they had a little extra money to kind of rebuild a beach here on the east end of the island. And the point I really want to make is with

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the next slide. This is in February '94 -- October, here we are eight months later and that sand is gone. Essentially scoured out and gone. So hence we don't really condone, at least for this island, pumping more sand without any kind of protection.

And this is, of course, in southern Terrebonne Parish in the westernmost barrier island. So really we're not losing anything to the system. This is 1997 after the demo breakwaters were installed. You can see sand immediately starting to build up behind the breakwaters, and then the spit's starting to reform. So we're protecting, again, only a portion of the vegetative island, but this is what this project is to do, is to protect the rest of this island.

And then Hurricane Lili, this is two days after Hurricane Lili. Just to kind of make a point, behind the existing breakwaters there was some concern, or actually reports that this demo project was a failure. Yet you can clearly see the sand behind the breakwaters. Obviously some of it did scour out and got placed behind the island some and on top of the island. And this is the western end where we want to protect at the same flight, two days after Lili. This is looking out into the Gulf where the breakwater field is proposed. And you can see the nature of that island after Lili. That vegetation was hammered pretty good and not a whole lot left.

Why do we want to protect this island? I think it's pretty obvious. Most of you are aware it is one of the most important barrier islands in North America in terms of Colonial water birds. It's the largest colony of brown pelicans that nest on the island; 5,400 nests this year. Also the largest colony of roseate spoonbills and reddish egrets. It's got the largest diversity in the State and along the Gulf Coast, one of the top in the country. Up to 17 species of Colonial nesting water birds. Also, it's a critical habitat for the threatened piping plover.

And just to show you, this was taken in July. Again, this island has reformed a lot of this sand since Hurricane Lili. It builds and even with storms it kind of attempts to be rebuilding. One of the things I want to point out also is this erosional shadow that you hear a lot about with breakwaters. We don't really see a huge shadow here. This was the original beach line. A lot of

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this vegetation has actually encroached south, where it was not originally before that breakwater project. So, if you look at some of the figures, as much as 54 feet a year, and some of these things are obviously used in the WVA process, if you look at seven years of this project implementation and you kind of calculate that, this is 250 feet here. This island would not be here with some of the shoreline erosion rates.

And essentially to finish off, we're protecting 4,240 feet of shoreline. The fully funded estimated cost is \$7.8 million. Phase II approval request is \$6.4 million. Net acres after 20 years is 16. That is low, again, with some of the WVA figures, and the loss rate figures we used. However, the island is only -- it's just over 100 acres, the vegetative portion of the island. So if you look at it percentage wise, we're actually creating quite a bit, or protecting quite a bit. Prioritization score is 41.93. Quite low, but again, most barrier island projects don't score very well with prioritization. And anticipated construction date would be June of 2005.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Comments by the Task Force?

MIGUEL FLORES:

First of all I want to say that EPA is fully supportive of barrier island restoration. I think that's one of the big things that we do and I think they are very appropriate. I've got a couple of questions. When you showed that that spit was reformed, do you attribute that to natural processes or to the fact that those breakwaters were there?

MIKE CARLOSS:

Well, that's a good guess. I mean nobody really knows. It's pretty much a guess, but a lot of that was occurring naturally, we think. If you look at the breakwaters, part of that building is still going on with the breakwaters in place. The spit comes and goes, as you probably know, depending on the storm situation. The history of that spit, since it's formed after Andrew, is pretty much just a come and go.

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MIGUEL FLORES:

So there's really no way of determining what would happen to the island behind the breakwaters?
How much of that you showed would have been accreted as a result of natural processes?

MIKE CARLOSS:

No. That's hard to call. But I think that the two slides that I showed with the work that we had done back in '94 -- that was completed in '94, where we pumped the sand on it, even actually going in and pumping sand on that east end of the island, it didn't stay. And it wasn't rebuilding on its own for some reason. So apparently it needed something in there to trap the sand and hold it. There's just so much energy on that east end of the island that the sand just doesn't stay. And we'll quickly get back to that, essentially, to that soil base or clay base of the island without protection.

MIGUEL FLORES:

I've flown over the area several times and I've noted in some areas where you see these breakwaters now far away from where the island has sort of migrated to, and so I'm just -- I wonder why we chose to put the breakwaters -- you chose to put the breakwaters there as opposed to, perhaps, bringing in more sediment and building up the island, as opposed to just putting in the breakwaters.

MIKE CARLOSS:

Well we'd like to do both actually. Phase B is going in and creating marsh on the back side. But we don't want to dump sand on top of that critical habitat, which is primarily mangroves. Some of the best mangroves in the State occur on Raccoon Island. And that is what the birds are attracted to. So that's the main thing. We don't want to go in and just change it into a big old sand pile of an island. It doesn't really have those characteristics. I mean you could go in there and do that, but you're taking away, I think the unique characteristics of the island. And trying to duplicate that, I think is going to be very difficult.

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Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

MIGUEL FLORES:

Thank you.

MIKE CARLOSS:

Sure.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Any other comments?

Any comments on behalf of the project?

PARKE MOORE:

Again, I wish to thank the Task Force for hearing the comments of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries on Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection. My name is Parke Moore, Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife. Raccoon Island is one of the most important barrier islands and sea bird nesting areas in North America. This year Raccoon Island was the largest brown pelican nesting colony in Louisiana; 12,312 young brown pelicans were produced. In addition, the rosy spoonbill nested successfully in large numbers. Raccoon Island is an extremely important area for sport fishing. Raccoon Island provides storm surge protection for Terrebonne Parish. Raccoon Island, by previous restoration projects, survived the west side impacts (inaudible). The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries is fully supportive of this project. The Raccoon Island is a success story in CWPPRA's and Louisiana Coastal Restoration.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you. Additional comments? Sir?

NOLAN BERGERON:

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Mr. Chairman, I'm Loland Bergeron. Chairman of the Coastal Zone Management and Coastal Restoration Advisory Committee, also on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, we support this project very strongly. The barrier islands are our first line of defense. It's survival for many birds; also survival for the people of Terrebonne Parish. Terrebonne Parish supports the restoration of the Louisiana coastline, the entire Louisiana coastline. We're not here to compare prices because we know that we're going to be on an expensive end. We have no natural processes left in Terrebonne Parish. We're between the two major rivers of Louisiana and we have no silt, no nutrients, nothing. Our marshes are dying, being washed out, they're sinking. The seas are coming to get us. So I'm not here to beg. I'm only up here to present our problem. And as a member of the coastal zone management and coastal restoration committee, we're here to advise the councils and the parish presidents, and we're trying to do that. We're trying to seek something that's going to protect the Terrebonne Parish coastline, Terrebonne Parish marshes, the homes, and the people and the animals and the birds and the fish of Terrebonne Parish. We are one of the -- we were one of the biggest oil producers in the parish -- I mean in the State of Louisiana. We sent a lot of dollars to Washington. We're still sending a lot of dollars to Washington. We have many pipelines that transfers to Terrebonne Parish (inaudible) the coastline. We have many, many problems that's going to develop if we don't do something to try and save the marshes and try and add to the marshes. So I'm asking y'all to please take all that into consideration and give it a lot of thought. And, of course, I'm asking you to approve some of these projects. Because without the (inaudible), you know, we are going down to the Gulf. And, you know, we're hoping we can mimic some of the natural processes that were here years ago. We know we can. All it's going to take is a lot of money. Any way we can help the Army Corps of Engineers or any other agency to lobby for any money, we'll do it. We're passing a petition right now to try to get the people of Terrebonne and Lafourche involved in it. So that maybe they can go to Washington, just the regular guy. There's no other way of asking for it. The people of Terrebonne and Lafourche, I know they're concerned. A little storm came down here this weekend and look at the damage. Look at [COUGHING]. We just need some help. Thank y'all very much.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Next project please.

JOHN SAIA:

Okay. This will be the last project discussion. Ms. Melanie Goodman will make the presentation on South White Lake Shoreline Protection. Included in that presentation, the demonstration project. After she's completed and we hear public comment, I'll come back and talk about the recommendation of the Technical Committee again.

MELANIE GOODMAN:

I'm here to discuss the South White Lake Shoreline Protection project first and then I'll go into the Shoreline Protection Foundation Improvements Demo details. The South White Lake Shoreline Protection project was approved in January of 2003, under PPL12. It's a breakwater that's proposed to stop shoreline erosion along the south shoreline of South White Lake. The project, as proposed and approved during Phase 0, had two purposes: to stop shoreline erosion and then also to prevent low marsh management levees from breaching. The project extends from the east from Wills Point, which is actually about right here, to the west at Bear Lake. In Bear Lake, and actually all along here, there are marsh management levees. There are two sets of levees. And if you look here, there's this dark line, which is a canal and the interior levees. Actually both sets of levees are at risk of being breached as a result of shoreline erosion. And there's a concern that once those are breached this area will become inundated with lake water, the marsh in this area, a lot of the marsh in this area is below the elevation of the lake water.

Initially, the project was approved under Phase 0 for a length of 55,000 linear feet. We've extended the project to 61,500 linear feet. Originally it was to start here and to end about this point. We extended it to encompass this entire mass of land right here. It didn't make a lot of sense to stop it once we were going here. And then we're wrapping it around to the end of this area here because it encompasses the entire benefit area. The project, with the dredge material that we're going to obtain from a flotation channel to build the four-shore dike, we're going to

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create 157 acres of marsh. The project's going to protect 424 acres of shoreline over the 20 year project life. And as a result of protecting the interior levees, an additional 263 acres, which is conservative, will be protected. This is not showing very well, but you can see here why we're extending the project over here. And I can't see it very well from over here. But the project would end over here, as originally proposed, but those interior levees extend way over here, so we decided to extend the project.

That's a picture of what we're protecting on the east and then where the project's going to be protected on the west. And this shows you to the interior levee. This is Bear Lake. And this illustrates how thin the marsh is, or how little the marsh area is remaining between the lake and the exterior, or the outer levees, and in some areas it's like less than 50 feet, like right here. This shows when the lake gets high, water can come over the exterior levee, and in turn through that interior canal. There's wave energy tearing up the shoreline. This is how the project has changed. What was approved for Phase I was 55,000 linear feet of shoreline. We're proposing 61,500 linear feet.

The important things are that the project has decreased in cost by a little over five million dollars. Our benefits have increased. Initially the proposed benefits included 60 acres of accreted marsh. We're not including that in our benefits because we're filling in the space behind the dike with dredge material from the flotation channel and we're actually going to create 157 acres of marsh, which is more reliable than assuming 60 acres of accretion. And we're actually going to protect more acres of shoreline. We have a longer dike, so our benefits have increased by 142 acres. So we have more benefit and our project cost dropped.

This is just a summation of the project. A total of 686 acres of marsh. A protected benefit over the project life, over 157 acres of marsh created. The fully funded cost estimate is \$19,700,000. There's a little over 11 miles of shoreline. The project's going to protect Pecan Island community. You see here, this is LA-82, which is the only highway between Pecan Island and Cameron Creole, the only hurricane evacuation route between these two communities. If these

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levees breach and the lake inundates this area, this area is expected to look very much like this or like this or like this. There are several oil and gas facilities in the area and as mentioned, this is within the Mermentau Basin and the Chenier Plain and it's not included in the short plan for LCA.

This is the Shoreline Protection Foundation Improvement Demonstration Project. We're asking for construction approval. This project was approved for funding this past January. The South White Lake Shoreline Protection Project was selected to host these projects because there are appropriately poor soils. I'll get into that in a minute. The purpose of the demonstration project is to test cost effectiveness and feasibility of shoreline protection projects by applying a sand foundation beneath rock dikes that would be construction in Louisiana coastal zones. The goal of the project is to demonstrate alternatives that would improve bearing capacity and consolidation of sediment design tolerances to reduce 20 year project life cycle cost, compared to traditional approaches.

Like I said, White Lake is the host project. The project was selected because we have appropriately poor soil foundation along the bank line. The South White Lake area has high winds and strong waves, which create a harsh wave climate. This is what we're really looking for the project, and a high erosion rate. We're building the project, or the demo, along reach five of South White Lake because the soil conditions are appropriate. It has sufficient continuous length without obstacles or interruptions, which would reduce the amount of error during construction. And it also provides continuous front for the angle of attached from wind and waves. And this is reach five, which is just west of Wills Point.

The Shoreline Foundation Improvement Demo Project was originally approved for \$1 million. The current fully funded estimate is just a little over that; \$54,500 over that. We're going to do two replicas of the test, which includes two treatments and a control. The treatments include introducing a sand foundation between geotextile fabric, and then also -- that would be Treatment A and then Treatment B. This includes removing the poor soil foundation and then

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placing a sand foundation between geotextile fabric. And these will be compared to control segments. And each of the treatments and the control segment will be instrumented with various monitoring equipment. The demonstration project will pay for all the monitoring, the instruments, analysis, the sand, additional dredging, geotextile, and any reporting.

And these are just cross-sections. This shows the sand placement between two geotextiles, the standard rock dike design. This shows that the project material which will be dredged out and sand placement between two layers of the geotextile material. And then the dike placed on top of that. And this shows placement of the monitoring equipment, which includes settlement plates. And this is the layout. We had a randomly selected layout of the two replicates.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Questions or comments? All right. Mr. Saia.

RANDY MOERTLE:

My name is Randy Moertle. I'm representing the M.O. Miller estate property. They're the landowner for half of the project area starting right about here going to the west. What we'd like to comment about very quickly is that as Melanie had pointed out, these are all pump-off districts, management districts. They have been used for cattle for almost 30 years and were pumped down. Survey data shows that there's a level that these marshes are much lower than the outside marshes. If we do get any kind of water that comes in from the lake, we get a breach in these levees, then we're going to have White Lake going to immediately to Highway 82, which is right here, which is our evacuation route for Grand Chenier and Pecan Island out of the area. It's the main evacuation route for Grand Chenier, headed out to the east, because the west end around Creole goes under very quickly. So we want to keep that area protected for sure. If you want to understand exactly what it's going to look like if this does occur, you can see right there. That's area that has been breached and then filled up. And then this whole germane tract down here is the same thing. These are all pump off areas where the levees have been breached and have turned completely to open water. I'd like to say that we had 112 comment letters when

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this project was first proposed, from Vermilion Parish, in support of this project. It is the number one project for Vermilion Parish Police Jury. It is also, as Melanie pointed out, part of a shoreline protection project, and it was also the most important thing that y'all need to remember about this, that the Technical Committee, September 9th, picked this as the number one, and it scored the highest scores of any of the projects proposed today. So it was supported by all the agencies and it received the very highest score of all. Thank you very much.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, can I ask a question before Mr. Moertle leaves?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Sure.

RANDY HANCHEY:

I guess I wasn't really aware of the extent to which this area has been pumped, and the subsidence that has occurred. Is that an ongoing practice in this area?

RANDY MOERTLE:

It was dried this year to enhance emergence growth for water fowl. So it was dried this very year.

RANDY HANCHEY:

You know that we've got areas throughout the coast, fortunately, not that many of them, where people have leveed off areas and been pumping them for some time, and with the subsidence and then it becomes virtually impossible to really ever reclaim them if we ever lose them. It seems to me that this is a practice that ought to be discouraged. I know its private land, but to have somebody who's got this type of operation that results in this kind of situation, and then expects others come along and provide protection to preserve it. I guess it bothers me a little bit.

RANDY MOERTLE:

Okay. Can I comment on that?

RANDY HANCHEY:

Sure can.

RANDY MOERTLE:

Okay . This was originally dried for cattle. This now being managed for water fowl. It's a common water fowl practice to go ahead and dry them, we do them for a short term. You do it to go ahead and encourage the growth of wild (inaudible) and that type of thing. It's a great deal.

I worked for 12 years just to the left of there at Little Pecan, the problem we didn't have was watering opening up. By working that practice we had the opposite problem, everything was closing in. We're trying to keep it open so that we can hunt and the marsh is closing in on everything, because we continue that practice. We did it on about a three to five year rotation, which usually works real well, and it does not cause that to go ahead and oxidize and sink. This was done for cattle, that's the reason for that now. Anything that we do now isn't going to do anything but enhance it. It will allow a lot of that stuff to grow up, a lot of your cut grass that you're trying to plant, your bullwhip, and all that other stuff. If you dry that, it's going to just go ahead and spread even that much better.

MARTIN MILLER, III:

My name is Martin Miller, III, and I actually represent some of my family members in managing the property, I do manage this. It hasn't been pumped off in 20 years for cattle. We did start pumping it, I think it was two years ago, when White Lake got so high it came up to the outer banks, went into the canal, as Melanie mentioned, that it actually flowed into the area. All our levees, north/south levees, were under and we put pumps in and started pumping it off to bring the level back down. So I was out there with Melanie and the tour and, I think, some 50 feet, is almost too far, some of those areas are only 20 feet wide. And again, with the water level at White Lake controlled by some of the locks, we can't control it and our levees are just not high

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enough. Our family is supportive of this.

M.O. MILLER, II:

My name is M.O. Miller, II, and I'm one of the owners of the M.O. Miller Estate and I'm just here to say that we are in favor of the project, naturally. I am talking about safety issues for people. And we're going to do whatever it takes to get that contract done. Thanks.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I would remind the Task Force members that the last unmarked tab in this section has copies and a summary of all the letters that were provided in support of the projects. So those are available, either for your deliberations or review.

JUDGE EDWARDS:

Judge Edwards, Vermilion Corporation. We're the landowner on the eastern half of this project. We support this project. One photograph that wasn't shown was an aerial view from White Lake looking toward the Gulf of Mexico. When you see that photograph, you will clearly understand the significance of this project. There is a CWPPRA project immediately south of Pecan Island Ridge in that open water area. The area south of that is under management, the area to the west of that is Rockefeller Refuge. If you look from the lake toward the Gulf, and you imagine the area to the west of the Miller property under water, where that one piece is, and you can see how much water there is south of the ridge between Highway 82 and the Gulf of Mexico you can realize it would take one good storm event and one good tidal surge, to open White Lake to the Gulf of Mexico. Now White Lake is a freshwater reservoir that, I'm not exactly sure, but services something between -- Mr. Broussard isn't here -- Darryl can you help -- 100, 200, 300,000 acres of rice culture and crawfish culture in Vermilion and Cameron Parishes. Not to mention if it were open to the Gulf, the amount of freshwater marshes that would die overnight should this happen. This, coupled with the fact that this fits hand-in-glove with the 2050 strategies of protecting your infrastructure, Highway 82. There was one photograph that showed the locks on the right hand side of the slide there, not to mention the community of Pecan Island.

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This project protects all of that, as well as serves and protects the Mermentau Basin from the Gulf of Mexico. So Vermilion Corporation, as well as Vermilion Parish, highly endorses this project and we feel it's the most significant project for Vermilion Parish. Thank you very much.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. Let's see. Why don't you summarize the recommendation? The Technical Committee will take a short break and then entertain deliberations of the Task Force.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Mr. Chairman, time is starting to be of the essence. Can we skip the break and keep working?

COLONEL ROWAN:

I certainly -- I need other comments from the Task Force and our court reporters as they are chained to their chairs, you're okay? Certainly.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Okay.

JOHN SAIA:

Okay. I'll proceed with the recommendation, sir. The Technical Committee is recommending that five projects be approved, and that includes the demonstration project. I'll read the projects: the South White Lake Shoreline Project, including the demonstration; the Barataria Basin Landbridge Phase 1 and 2, Construction Unit 5; the Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection Phase A, Construction Unit 1; and the Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82. And you can see those are the first four items on the chart that we have on the screen. As I indicated, we had considered approval of other projects, since we had excess funds. However, none of them fell -- Lake Mechant was over the amount that we had available to allocate, and the remaining two were below Lake Mechant. And so it was decided just to recommend these five. Now I'm going to go to the next slide which indicates that if these are approved, what we have remaining. And

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Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

you can see, based on the tally that we had on the other agenda items, and considering approval of these five we would have 24,448,000 dollars remaining, unallocated. So our recommendation at this time is to approve five.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. What I'd like to do is have a little -- we can start on my left and take comments from the Task Force.

BRITT PAUL:

I'm comfortable with the recommendation of the Technical Committee on those five for sure. I think we need to take action on that recommendation and then discuss the balance of the funding and projects.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Chairman, I would agree with that as a procedure. Following a vote on the Technical Committee's recommendations of the four plus the demo, then we would discuss the three projects starting with Lake Mechant first.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Sidney.

SIDNEY COFFEE:

I agree with that, that's fine.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Miguel?

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MIGUEL FLORES:

Earlier this morning I had concern about Raccoon Island and how it was being developed and I appreciate the presentation made allayed a lot of my fears about what was going on there on Raccoon Island. I say we go ahead and vote on the projects and initiate a discussion on the remaining three.

RUSS WATSON:

I would be fine with the recommendation of the Technical Committee and then discussing Lake Mechant. I don't know if I'd be fine discussing all three, as certainly I would put Lake Mechant forward as completed in accordance with the guidance we received from the Technical Committee.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. At this time I concur with the recommendation. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Technical Committee recommendation.

BRITT PAUL:

So moved.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Second.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion and a second for approval of the Technical Committee Recommendation. All those in favor, if you would just, for the record, state your concurrence or non-concurrence?

BRITT PAUL:

I concur.

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ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Concur.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Concur.

RUSS WATSON:

Concur.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I concur. Thank you. Now that motion is approved and as the spreadsheet shows, there is a balance remaining of roughly 24.5 million dollars, and we can have discussions on the remaining projects for an alternative by the Task Force to pursue.

RUSS WATSON:

Sir, I'd like to make a motion that the Lake Mechant Project be approved as the next project.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. I have a motion from the Task Force, do I have a second?

BRITT PAUL:

I think maybe before we get there, can we talk about, I guess the cushion we've talked about off and on a little bit about what we would have left we do that. What's the actual numbers?

COLONEL ROWAN:

And our survey says \$1,157,621.95. We are very exact. If you would hold your motion in abeyance, we could -- I'd like to take a little bit of comment on it. Is there a methodology you want to pursue for evaluating the remaining projects for the Task Force?

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Like I have expressed in the past I have a little bit of concern backing into a number on a project, based on available funds. I'm not necessarily comfortable that we have optimized, and then again, without any science to back that up, other than a seat of the pants feeling. I would like to, as we go forward, maintain a level of deference to our Technical Committee and the valuable work that they do. And I want to take advantage of an expertise that I lack, in that regard. I'm not sure how the other Task Force members feel on this.

SIDNEY COFFEE:

I have a question. I'd just like to know, I mean, how the rest of you feel about is there good, or harm -- how do you feel about having a balance of \$24 million or a balance of \$1 million? I'd just be curious to how you feel about having that surplus.

MIGUEL FLORES:

My thoughts Sidney, are that, you know, we have a lot of projects coming up next year that are going to be in a position of, you know, I don't know what the total is, but it's going to be a huge total in terms of the amount of funding required coming up in October of next year. And a lot of the projects that are coming up have, at least, a higher prioritization score than some of the projects that we possibly have now. So, you know, I'm not opposed to keeping some sort of a buffer or a pad, because of that, knowing that full well some of our two highest priority, based on the prioritization scores alone, are coming up next October, then I just want to make sure that we consider the best project that we have to fund.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Sir.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Chairman, our view is that \$1 million would not be enough of a buffer and certainly 24 would be too much. And I guess the dilemma, I can speak candidly about Lake Mechant, it's a very good

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project. We supported it, it's a top priority. I'm not particular concerned about its overall cost or even the adjusted process that we went to come up with an adjusted number. I think that was well explained. The only issue is what does it do to the reserve, and the flexibility that that reserve provides us? We have demonstrated, as a body, year after year, that every single year that I have been here, that we turn back and reserve, we had projects with overruns, and we have made adjustments including those overruns. And I guess I would be very worried if, for some reason we didn't have the reserve. If we had a project, it could be a large one or a small one, and that project gets held up because we can't adjust if we need to. I just think we need to allow ourselves some flexibility. I had endeavors to this project. I kept looking at ways of shaving money, and perhaps, gaining \$2 or 3 more million. I had not -- even looking at say, set aside the demo's for a million, I thought we'd allow \$2 million. Little things to accrue what I think we had have is about a four million dollar buffer. But currently, I would not be satisfied with one million dollar buffer.

COLONEL ROWAN:

If I could, Julie, if you could bring up the funding slide with the slanted bars? I believe that speaks to the reserve. The first bar chart. As I understand this chart, if we approve the recommendation while we have \$24 million in current year funds, the expected funding into the program would be down to \$255 million through '09. That is unaccounted for in any life cycle cost -- we're unencumbered.

JULIE LEBLANC:

That's correct.

COLONEL ROWAN:

So while in a given year, 2005, we have a million and a half unencumbered, that includes full life cycle costs of everything. And there's still another \$255 million in program funds through '09, that are completely unencumbered.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, is that -- I'm not sure you were saying that right.

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

The real question is can we use those funds to bail ourselves out? That's the bottom line question here.

JULIE LEBLANC:

The money is available once a year. So we would not have that \$255 million until 2009. And I think next year we're scheduled to get \$61 million? And then after that is what adds up to 255, with an additional five years of funding.

BRITT PAUL:

So if a project or two projects came in over the budget -- over the estimate, now that we set a cap of 100%, if a couple of them came in, all we would have to spend was that \$1.1 million to cover those overruns. Can you get, for this given year, until next year at this time?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Unless the Task Force would decide to over-program the program. Which is not to be confused with over-obligate.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, let me say it another way, because we've got a lot of projects that are on Phase I that haven't come forward for Phase II approval yet.

COLONEL ROWAN:

That's correct.

RANDY HANCHEY:

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And that's those 5, 7, and 18 projects, presumably that runs into a deficit. So it's not that we've got money that's not, to some extent, spoken for, or at least some anticipation of getting it. I think what we heard a minute ago was that some of these projects that are going, that we're going to be dealing with next October, at the current moment, appear to be as good as or better than some of the projects that we approved today.

COLONEL ROWAN:

The are higher on the priority.

RANDY HANCHEY:

So, you know, we really are looking -- if you're going to count that \$255 million, which is all future year receipts, it seems to me you've got to also count a lot of the stuff that's standing in line to spend that money. But let me go back and say something else, because, you know, what just happened here is that the Task Force sort of uncritically accepted the full recommendations of the Technical Committee. And then we're going to deal with Lake Mechant Project as having already set aside the money for those four. Now I look at the projects we approved from the State perspective, and Lake Mechant's our number one project. And if we had to vote on Highway 82 Diversion, for example, compared to Lake Mechant, I think we would prefer Lake Mechant. We're not getting that choice because y'all, from the front end, approved all four projects and said we're just going to discuss the merits of the ones that are left. And I think if you're going to do this, you really ought to ask the question, have we approved something in this four that the Task Force would believe should be displaced by one of the ones that the Technical Committee didn't recommend? There's three projects that I think are, from my point of view, meritorious projects. We'd like the critical area bank protection in Terrebonne Parish. I mean I think we say it was demonstrated that that project is dealing with a real problem and that one thing we know about that one is that that works. Every place we've done it along the GIWW, it works. We think Lake Mechant is a good project. That's at least two that are complete open discussion; I think warrant some discussion to be compared to those four that y'all approved.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I'm looking at the State Technical Committee vote. Three high priority, 7, 9 and 10. Number 11, your highest priority was Lake Mechant. And three of those are approved at this point. Three of your high priority -- I don't think we are necessarily in conflict with the State or with the action.

RANDY HANCHEY:

No. All I was pointing out was is that Lake Mechant is our top. And we also have a lot of points on Freshwater Bayou. And just looking at it from the point of view of the State, and, you know, we don't get to vote on this, so but from the point of view of the State, I think we like Lake Mechant, and we like it better than, say, for example, the freshwater diversion south of Highway 82. But that issue is not even coming up. I mean we don't get to look at it, we're not getting to talk about the relative merits of those two projects. We're only looking at the margin.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Just an observation. And I guess --

COLONEL ROWAN:

A true observation.

RANDY HANCHEY:

The conclusion I would draw from that is, maybe you were premature in just automatically assuming you ought to endorse the Technical Committee's four recommendations without having a discussion about what other projects down there might the Task Force, as opposed to -- after listening to all these presentations, as compared to the Technical Committee. Because you know, you know and I know, that when agencies rank these things, there are some issues that cause people to vote for one project over another, that don't necessarily have to do with the

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objective evaluation of the merits of the project. And I don't want to go there, but all I'm saying is that in my mind, the responsibility of this Task Force is not to simply endorse the recommendations of the Technical Committee, but in a case like this, where we've got extra money and we want to maintain something more than a million dollars worth of reserve, that there are some choices. If you substituted, for example, Lake Mechant, for one of these other projects, you might find the difference in cost of those two projects generate a bigger reserve.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I am comfortable with the action and on the consensus of the Task Force. I think the Task Force members gave their opinion of the merits of the Technical Committee recommendation. I'm comfortable with that. Now whether or not Lake Mechant becomes an added project, myself, I am more comfortable with a 1.5 million dollar reserve knowing full well there is additional cash coming into the program each successive year, based on a funding source that's not controlled by annual allocation or appropriation. So I am relatively comfortable with a spending limit much higher than, perhaps, some of the other Task Force members. Because I think, while we have approved some overages of O&M, the vast majority of the O&M funds have not been spent to-date on projects. And as Fish & Wildlife showed us, there is money sitting out within different amounts, that if push came to shove and a priority needed to be established, there could be other funds made available from the individual projects. We haven't pulled all the change out of the seat cushions, if you will, of the different projects. There are 129 different line items that have funding against them in the spreadsheet. So that leads me to be more comfortable with going to the 1.5 million dollar spread if there is a project that is worthwhile that the Task Force agrees should go forward at this time.

MIGUEL FLORES:

I agree with you Randy, in terms of -- actually I though we were going to vote individually on each one of these projects. I responded to a question Sidney said could I live with 24 million dollar carryover, I said sure I can. But I'm also in agreement with Colonel Rowan that if there is a meritorious project that we need to proceed on, I don't have any problem in only carrying over

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\$1.5 million, given that there's a lot of money that is out there that has not been expended. There's been a lot of obligations, there's, you know -- it's not been expended and I think that I wouldn't think that the risk is all that high if we were to go ahead and introduce some additional monies and leave only a 1.5 say million dollar carryover.

RANDY HANCHEY:

And I agree with you. Personally I think that's adequate.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Are there other discussions?

RUSS WATSON:

Colonel Rowan. I've not -- I'm the newest participant in this process, I think, including the folk of the State, and so I'll forego eloquence to make a few observations, that I hope improve the panel. We're sitting here talking about two or three issues, as near as I can make out in terms of Lake Mechant being the next project: State's highest vote at the Technical Committee, and a project that is now arguably optimized. We've been able through I think value engineering and very up front approach to the books. Then what I understand my department and predecessor did for a long time, and that was tried to operate as transparently and as efficiently as they could. And I think that the kind of things that Randy said after Martha made the presentation, leaves me unable to add anything, technically, to that presentation, other than to say there you have it. I don't think good work needs a lot of explanation.

In terms of a cushion, well cushion, cushion, how much is the right amount? At Technical Committee meetings, our representative made a very clear statement that it's a semi-crime to leave that much money on the table. And the Technical Committee said it's a semi-crime not to let the Task Force take a look at these things and make some of these big decisions. And so there again, somewhere in between, it's a semi-crime to have that much money, and 1.5 is not enough and 1.3 is not enough, is I suspect, true. To me, the Task Force has impressed me over

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the years that I have watched it from the side, and then now getting into the middle of it more and more, with their abilities to move good projects ahead, if we jump over a project on the list to get to one that fits the budget, are we adding quality or are we just piling on quantity? And, you know, as I've said to others, we're reaching that point where there's not going to be enough resources to go around. So how do we approach that in a wise and fair fashion? I think with the slate of projects on the books, and specifically, the Lake Mechant Project ready to go, in an optimal fashion, I think that it would be wrong to hold that back if it's something that the Task Force has not yet done because we think there might be other projects that might be ready to go at some point in the future. None of us knows if we have a tomorrow. I won't say we shouldn't plan for it, but I don't think any of us has a locked grip on the fact that tomorrow will come. But yet we do have -- if the Technical Committee who deliberated long and hard, and who, I think showed great flexibility, and I appreciate the other agency Technical Committee members, that basically saw how close this was, understood the pressures in the Terrebonne Basin, the kind of threats that the Lake Mechant Project would address, and who basically said let's hold up and let this one go and take another hard look. And we tried very hard to not disappoint, to do it in a technically sound, politically correct way. In fact, we met with the State and made sure before we sent this stuff back up to the Technical Committee that we had covered all of those bases. And so I don't know that there's any point in going back to the Technical Committee meeting and saying take a look at these three projects, Grand Lake, Lake Mechant, and the other one that was number three, which I have carefully to mark so that I could get back to it, GIWW, the fact of the matter is we heard from the Terrebonne Parish people themselves that said, Lake Mechant, the Terrebonne Parish projects, is their number one priority. They've consistently been to the table on it and Lake Mechant got, probably the strongest voting support of any of the projects if you look at just the letters in the book. I have a hard time with remanding back to the Task Force, a vote on these three projects, because then there's the Technical Committee. Because the Technical Committee has had a public forum and they have graded and ranked the entire slate of 11 or 12 projects, depending on how you count them and listed them in priority order. We don't have any new information; we gave you our very best here today. We knew it was time for one shot, do or die, here at this meeting this afternoon, for Lake Mechant, to get it moving and get a

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full slate of projects moving forward. I think we're in business, I think we've been in the business of designing and building good projects. I don't think we've been in the business of waiting around to see what the futures might bring one year, two years, three years down the road, and I don't know how we can figure out how much of this contingency is the right contingency, you know? Is it \$1.5 million, is it \$10 million, is it \$26 million? Yes, I think at some point we're going to have to come up with how we're going to deal with these things because we have entered that new era in the Task Force history, as of this moment in time. I can't believe I'm sitting here doing this; that you all knew was coming for two years.

I'll sum up with, I don't think you're going to find a better project, I don't think you'll find a better budget, I don't think you'll get anymore information by remanding it back to the Technical Committee, but we would be putting them in the difficult position of having to potentially reverse their fields after having conducted what all agreed was an open and straightforward process, as they have done so often in the past. So I would offer that up.

Again, Terrebonne Parish is a critically important area, and I think that the case has been made there. In terms of a balance to hold onto, I don't think CWPPRA is LCA and I don't think LCA is CWPPRA, but I do see there are very close connections between them. But I don't see one having piracy or supremacy over the other. And so I think that the Colonel said and Randy has said make an awful lot of sense in terms of how do we integrate those programs if we go down the line in the future. The fact of the matter is we are still within the budget, but the very best project that the Technical Committee did put forward, had money then available, is their on the list. So with that, I'd like to put my motion back on the table if I may.

SIDNEY COFFEE:

I'd like to make a comment. And I think this ought to be clear too about what I said. I think Randy made it amply clear that the State likes the Mechant Project. That's not the issue here at all. And, you know -- gosh you said so much, there's so much I want to comment on. I'm trying to think of where to start here. By the process itself, I think what I'm trying to make sure is that

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the Task Force is aware -- we are setting a precedence here. I'm not saying, I can't vote anyway on the funding so that's moot. But we are setting a precedence that could lead to manipulation of the process of we allow it to. In this case, I think it was done very well. We liked the project to begin with. I sincerely meant, in a good way, that I'm amazed at what you were able to do with the budget. My suspicion is that there are a lot of other projects from the State side and the Federal side that could be re-looked at and I'll bet you we could find millions of dollars that we could save on a lot of this stuff, and I would encourage all the Federal agencies and the State as well, to continue doing that. And I think this is an example of what can be done on that end. And I think that needs to continue.

As I said, I would like to just caution as we go forward. There is that opening for manipulation of the process. I wouldn't want to see us reaching back to other projects. I think that while, no, there's no supremacy of LCA over CWPPRA or vice versa, still I don't think there's a good process in place, that we're judging these projects, or prioritizing any of these projects by looking at the whole, by looking at the big picture, and they're not -- they cannot operate as two separate islands out here without coming together. Because I don't think the State feels it's appropriate, and in the long run I don't think we can possibly allow that to happen. So those are just some of the points I wanted to make.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Okay. There is one other agency that had it ranked as their number one project. Rolland would you care to address Marine Fisheries?

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

Mr. Chairman, I think I've already done that in my comments previously. The issue for us is not the project. The project is a very good one; we made it a top priority for us. The issue for us is the reserve. And if this body is willing, than to agree to over programming, that's exactly what we would do if necessary. I can live with that. That's what we have to agree to if we have to move forward.

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COLONEL ROWAN:

Are we over programmed if we go forward?

ROLLAND SCHMITTEN:

We would only over program in this case. The situation where we would have a project that comes back and requesting an overrun that exceeds whatever the \$1.3 -- 1.5 million; yes, at that point we're over programming for the period of time until the next year.

RUSS WATSON:

I appreciate where you're coming from Rolland with that, in terms of that future overrun that could show up on the books. But the fact of the matter is, in essence what we're saying is we have to carry that over run that's unknown, at some in future on the backs of one, two, or three projects carrying the load now from the Technical Committee, that are ready to move forward.

There are, I think some things that Sidney touched on that were right on point. For instance, the four projects that we did pass, plus the demo project, what would be wrong with them going ahead and reconciling their Phase I books immediately? That's going to pull a lot of money back to the table in pretty short order. The Task Force may or may not vote in January for the full slate of PPL14 projects. Those would be candidate projects that are not even ready to go yet. So I think there's ample room in terms of the cushion, whether it be \$1.5 million or \$5 million. I think there is an awful lot of flexibility left in the program yet if we can come to grips with that. But I don't think its right to take projects that have been carried this far in the planning process that are ready to go, to hold those off on account of what ifs. I don't see us being in an over programming mode today. I'm not saying put on your blinders necessarily. But, and I do appreciate where you're coming from in terms of LCA and CWPPRA. The LCA Task Force will not be superior to the CWPPRA Task Force, but I do understand. And not I'm not making light of this, and I'm not wanting to say that they should be independent, because certainly the coastal wetland loss in Louisiana is the overriding issue that both programs must address to be

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successful. And so, what I had hoped that what we could do is with the money at hand, just press on and get those approved and go into the next one.

GERRY DUSZYNSKI:

Colonel, can I make one quick comment just to clarify some things? You also have projects out there, you know, we have a number of projects that are in the Phase -- Phase I, Phase II, that may not be constructed at some point. And it may be for a variety of reasons, technical land rights, or other things. So I guess there's an unknown out there of projects that may come back at some point. It's a number; it's just what that number is.

MIGUEL FLORES:

I recognize the value of the upcoming Lake Mechant Project, but I'm looking at, you know, why not Grand Lake? It has a higher prioritization score. I mean, I guess to me that means something. And I heard testimony and from the people. The Tech Committee has ranked fifth, the Tech Committee said, after what Randy just said about you know, you just rubber stamp what the Tech Committee says. Well I don't know if I'm prepared to cast a vote now on the Lake Mechant Project, not saying that it isn't a good project. So again, why not Grand Lake or some other project? Those that are ranked higher in prioritization, for example. Those are all smaller cost projects. So, you know, to me the fact that it's the next one on the list based on the consensus of the Tech Committee, is not a sufficient reason to place it for a vote now.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, can I make a statement?

COLONEL ROWAN:

Sure.

RANDY HANCHEY:

I don't know if I want to necessarily withdraw what I said before, but I'm going to soften what I

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said before. Because, listening to this discussion that's been going on since I made the rash statement about kind of rubber stamping the Technical Committee. You know, we listed the project -- this is one of the first times in my memory that we've ever done -- this Task Force has done what you're doing today, okay? And I think you could make a case for virtually all these projects. It's a personal level some that I like and some that I don't like. But people did a good job of making the best case for it. And I guess after listening to all this, I guess in my mind, it is the right thing to do, to look at the next ranked project. Unless people really have some concern about another project, there are two or three others that we didn't approve that I like. But I probably would put Lake Mechant to the top of the list of those that didn't get approved that I like. And I do think that this issue of the reserve is being a little bit overstated. We've never really had one before, and we always put all the money we have, or committed all the money we had. And because we had this 25 million dollars and because there was some concern as the type of process (inaudible) rather than compromise the project, which I think that that notion here today. I don't really think that there should be a lot of concern about the fact that we've got a little over a million dollars unspoken for in money. Because I think Gerry's right. There are a lot of projects out there that it's going to be a while before we ever spend that money. Some of them will never come to fruition. I think that the Task Force should make a strong statement to encourage agencies to do for all the projects we approved today, the same thing that Fish & Wildlife Service did for other projects. You used the word optimize. I think that's a good perspective to have. We've got to look at these projects and decide, are they as cost effective as we can make them? Are there ways to reduce the cost without giving up some significant benefit? I'm really impressed with what happened with Lake Mechant. And I think, you know, as Sidney pointed out, you're listening to it and reading this email that was passed, one wasn't left with the idea that this was sort of like making sausage. But in the final analysis maybe it's the presentation today which I thought was exceptional. It really satisfied my concerns about that project. So I just want to say again that I think this Task Force has risen to new heights, I think the meeting today and discussions had today is what this Task Force should be doing. We all knew it wasn't going to be easy when we went to cash-flow. We knew we would get to this day at one time and we're there now where we've got meritorious projects, we don't have enough

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money to build them all. Somebody's got to make the judgment, and I think the Task Force has stepped up and is not simply rubber stamping the Technical Committee. I think the discussion that y'all are having now is what I've always hoped would happen. And so, it's interesting to me, and I don't really care what decision you make. I think the process you're going through is what it's riding on. If there is going to be another project, I think it probably should be Mechant. But I'm not going to say anymore to that. I'm going to leave in a little while, it's getting late, and I'm going to ask Gerry to stay and hope he stays until at least ten minutes after I leave.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you. I received an urgent request for a two minute break. We will do that then we entertain a motion to the Task Force and move forward. Thank you.

-- BREAK --

COLONEL ROWAN:

As we said before the break we'll entertain a motion at this time.

RUSS WATSON:

I'll go ahead and move that the Lake Mechant Project be authorized with the reduced amount as presented here this afternoon.

RICK HARTMAN [substituting for Rolland Schmitten for remainder of meeting]:

I'd like to offer an amendment to that motion in terms of that as projects go forward and go to bid this year, if the bids come in high, there's a stated agreement to over program funds. Without that stated agreement, in affect what we're doing here is choosing to fund Lake Mechant over any of the other projects that might go to bid this year. And that is something that we are not prepared to do. We have, at least I already see two projects that total almost 90 million dollars going to bid this year. What this is saying is if they come in 2 million dollars over bid, we can't build it. This is not agreeable to our agency.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Is there not a 25% contingency in this amount?

RICK HARTMAN:

Actually, in our barrier island project, we discussed with DNR, we decided to keep our 15% contingency. Even then, even though we agreed to stay at 100% of whatever was approved, there's always a potential, if a bid comes in a dollar higher, we, as a Task Force, could vote to fund that project. So, you know, you need to understand that there's potential -- I would, in my mind, say a significant potential to need to over program funds. I think there needs to be an understanding by the Task Force of that probability if we accept this motion, if we approve it.

BRITT PAUL:

By cap you're saying 100%? We did away with that 25% overage.

COLONEL ROWAN:

But there is some contingency --

BRITT PAUL:

There is on each project but Rick's saying his project is staying under 15.

RICK HARTMAN:

Right. But even then, what you may decide to do is, if a project is at a dollar over, do you really want -- or a million and a half over, is it still a worthwhile project to fund? And you need to be able to understand this that you may be -- without that agreement to over program; you may be selecting Lake Mechant over any other project that could go to bid.

COLONEL ROWAN:

As I understand it, each of these projects are approved up to 100%. That includes a contingency.

If they exceed that 100%, that programmed amount, they have to come back to the Task Force

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anyway. They cannot award that contract without Task Force approval. Then that's a separate decision. It's not linked to any one single project.

RICK HARTMAN:

That's true. But a lot of those funding decisions will then be taken via a fax vote. And we need to realize that, again, if you do this and projects do come in over bid and you decide that the State and Federal sponsor decides they may still think it's a good project, there's going to be that fax request that may put you in the over programming mode.

COLONEL ROWAN:

That's one of the factors the Task Force has to take in, if and when that occurs. It won't be just an approved/disapproved, it will be approved/disapproved and here's the impact. That's part of the normal decision process. I'm not sure if I understand what your trying to --

RICK HARTMAN:

Well, my statement was meant to elicit an understanding among the Task Force reps and the agencies that I'm hearing maybe that over programming is possible. Is that you know, what I'm hearing?

COLONEL ROWAN:

That wasn't said by anybody, or meant by anybody.

RUSS WATSON:

Rick, if I might clarify. My motion was not made with the intention or implicit understanding that I was requesting Lake Mechant and accepting it for approval of that project today, and authorization of that project today, was implicitly an over programming. The short time that I've been around I know that over programming is not something that the Task Force has been willing to address, that is, I don't think we're doing it.

RICK HARTMAN:

Well I'm saying that if we approve this motion, the Task Force may be asked very soon --

RUSS WATSON:

The fact of the matter is, I don't know if, you know, the Task Force can just as easily say, of the four projects that were in the -- and the demo project, were already approved, you know, let's get Phase I budgets cleaned up and turn the money back to the program. There may be enough money, I don't know how much money, 90 million dollar projects down the road may need. That point was never brought up. And so, you know, I do know that we worked very hard to bring forward a project that's pretty straight up, and so we need to program a positive funding balance, very much what was there before. So, there again, I don't see the connection between us leaving a positive balance and you saying that's tantamount to over programming at some indeterminate time in the future.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Colonel, let me say something about this issue here. Maybe by calling it over programming, it seems, in some people's minds, it's to know that we're going to obligate money that we don't have yet. And I don't think that's what we're talking about. I don't think that's what we're talking about in your projects, Rick. I think we're going to -- in this cash-flow environment, I think we are, in fact, going to continually to be faced with trying to manage our money in a way that maybe it doesn't move meritorious projects to construction as quickly as we can. And I mean, suppose that this came up. What could we do? There are a number of options available to the Task Force, some of which have used in the past. The whole business of cash flow management was in response to a situation we found ourselves in back at PPL8 when people were convinced that even though we had tremendous understated balances over the State and Federal trust funds, that we didn't have enough money to even initiate any new projects. I mean actually at one meeting in Lafayette that proposal was laid on the table; we can't study a new project this year despite the fact that we had all of these -- all this money. And that's when we went to the cash-flow management process, deliberately, to get ourselves in the situation we're in today, which is

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we've got more projects than we've got money and the Task Force has had to make some priority decisions.

Now, barrier islands, for example, are projects that we've all -- the various shoreline work is something that we all committed to a long time ago. There are extensive projects, but we got money enough set aside for them today to build them if they come in under bid, and if they don't it's going to be some percentage above, some manageable percentage above. We've got money that's tied up for 20 years in O&M. We could divert some of those projects to a cash-flow management if we chose to. We've got projects out there that are being delayed for one reason or another, that we know we're not going to use construction money for two to three , maybe four years from now. There was an occasion when we had 26 million dollars tied up in Bayou Lafourche Diversion Project and we needed money for a project to proceed immediately. EPA volunteered to reduce the commitment on the Bayou Lafourche Project from 26 down to about eight million dollars, with the understanding they'd come back and ask for it again when they got ready for it. And what that really did, that was an over programming of sorts, but it took available cash money and spent it on a project that could be built and simply put an IOU, so to speak, one that didn't have to be cashed in. There was no guarantee we'd be able to get that money back to 26 million dollars, and nobody said that. They said we can't use it within the next several years we're going to use it on something today and come back to it when you're ready. And I think that's the way the system is going to have to work. If these projects show up next year, or whatever time you're going to advertise it for bid, what's going to happen is that I think we'll fund them, if there's some slight overage we'll have to find available unobligated money somewhere in the system. It may be money that's committed today or it may be money that we expect to get in new receipts within a particular period of time. We would probably fund those projects and then we deal with whatever shortfall that created for the future. So whether we call it over programming or whether we just call it judicious management of the available money, I would prefer the second. I think it's financial management of a program level which means that you've got to make decisions on priorities, you've got to make decision on short-term requirements and recognize that you've got to solve those problems in the long-term, and

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sometimes solving this problem may mean that something that's scheduled for three years from now may get pushed back to four years. And I think the decision would be made, Rick, in the context of how people view the priority of the project that you're talking about, with respect to any other demand that we may have for short-term cash. And I think we can do it very well.

So, whether we say we'll over program or whether we just say that we will -- we've got a lot of flexibility in this system and we'll manage the money to take care of the high priority needs as they arise. I think in my mind it's essentially the same thing.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I think it's bad for us to get into an over programming status, but it's clearly the case of the managers of the program to identify the offsets that are required. You know, whether it's a Bayou Lafourche offset or it's deauthorizing a project for any other activity. That's what we're paid to do.

RICK HARTMAN:

That's what our concern is. You know, the Corps has a pretty strong stance and position, and they're the money managers to a certain extent. And again, if bids come in a little high, it could mean, for any of us, if the Corps, as the bankers were to take a strong stance, then we couldn't build this year.

RANDY HANCHEY:

You know Rick, the Corps -- to be honest and fair -- the Corps has never unilaterally utilized their money manager to operate unilaterally on these things. Those kinds of decisions have always been decisions that are brought before the Task Force, and there may be some cases where the Task Force looks at them and says, you know, we just will not (inaudible) this as a wise thing to do. I can't imagine a circumstance, which we've gone as long as we have on these various shoreline projects and spent the money we had on design and sand search, and everything else for a few million dollars somebody is going to say, oops, we're not going to build

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two 90 million dollar projects, we're just going to do something else with it. I mean, I really think that this is a hypothetical problem, and I understand your concern about it, but I don't have any doubt in my mind if your projects come in, within an acceptable level above budget, that they are going to be funding and they are going built.

COLONEL ROWAN:

And we came back for \$21,000 for about 45 minutes this morning.

RANDY HANCHEY:

I apologize for 45 minutes of that. I do apologize.

COLONEL ROWAN:

We will find the offsets.

RICK HARTMAN:

Well the bigger issue is, I don't want to be caught between your lawyers and the program, because I know, you know from talking to the State, what happens, when that happens, nothing goes anywhere. And, you know that's --

RANDY HANCHEY:

We didn't say anything about their lawyers.

RUSS WATSON:

This has been very illuminating for me. But now I've lost track of where --

COLONEL ROWAN:

There is a motion on the table; we're waiting on a second. There was a comment on that motion.

I don't think it changes the motion or were intended to change the motion. It was a cautionary note to the Task Force.

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RICK HARTMAN:

I would have liked to have in the motion, an agreement that some, call it what you want, over programming or creative funding, you know, agree that that would be allowable on a case by case basis. I know that that -- I think lawyers would allow you to say that.

RICK HANCHEY:

I think that is not a wise thing to do, because it's so easily misconstrued. I think the best we're going to get is to rely on the good faith of this Task Force to do the right thing. And I think your projects are the right thing, I think everybody has confirmed that time and time again by providing the funding, which has been substantial up to this point in time to get them to the point they are. And I feel very sure that they -- when it's time to build them we are going to assist the State and find the money somewhere to build them.

MIGUEL FLORES:

One thing I'd like to add too and I think we had this discussion before, about how long do we continue planning? I know people had very strong opinions in terms of if we're going to continue to plan and what we were required to do by law in terms of PPL lists and all that. But, you know we're getting close to the point where you know, our focus should be more on constructing projects than planning new ones, unless there's some exceptional gem out there that comes out that we feel we just have to go with it. So, I think there's enough options available to us in the future, should something like that happen, but we can adjust, based on the decisions that we make and I think that you're absolutely right. I think there's enough flexibility that we have in order to be able to address your concerns, Rick, and I don't think it's necessary to put it in there.

RANDY HANCHEY:

Why don't you second the motion so we can go home?

MIGUEL FLORES:

Well, all right. I'm getting to that. I think given the consideration that I have is that, you know it is a high priority of the State, high priority to the parish. Lake Mechant is sufficiently high in the overall standings anyway. It's just another time; we have the money now, so I would second the motion to move forward with Lake Mechant.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. Now I have a motion and a second. All in favor? We'll start with Rick.

MR. HARTMAN:

Aye.

MR. FLORES:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All right. The motion's carried.

Julie, if you could make the announcement on PPL14, if you could?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Quickly, just announcing the dates of the public meetings for PPL14 projects where the six candidate projects Randy spoke about early, will be presented. November 17th at 7:00 p.m., Vermilion Parish Police Jury Courthouse in Abbeville, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Corps of Engineers' in New Orleans.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I am prepared to entertain a motion to defer items 12 and 13. Do I have a motion? Those would be the Outreach Committee report and damage from hurricane Ivan.

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Breaux Act Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Task Force Meeting October 13, 2004

SIDNEY COFFEE:

I make a motion.

MIGUEL FLORES:

Before we vote on that I just want to say that I want to really congratulate the people who put together the last issue of Watermarks, on the hypoxia issue. I thought it was an excellent, excellent publication. And again I encourage that, because perhaps the Federal Government will now be able to do this, but I encourage the Governor's office to provide a copy of Watermarks materials to members of Congress.

COLONEL ROWAN:

I have a motion on the table to defer 13 and 14 -- or 12 and 13.

BRITT PAUL:

Second.

COLONEL ROWAN:

All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you, Gabrielle. And also the folks who are here on Hurricane Ivan -- my apologies from the chair. Any additional items that the Task Force members would like to discuss?

JOHN JURGENSEN:

Just that the last bit on Hurricane Ivan, is that being distributed via email?

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COLONEL ROWAN:

Can we have that sent to the Task Force members and the Tech Committee? Maybe we could forward that to both of you. Next Task Force meeting?

JULIE LEBLANC:

Next Task Force meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., January 26, in New Orleans.

COLONEL ROWAN:

And finally, are there any public comments at this point? The Task Force will entertain public comments. All right. Last item, proposed date for future meetings are provided to the Task Force in your notes. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

RICK HARTMAN:

So moved.

RUSS WATSON:

Seconded.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Motion and a second. All in favor?

ALL ASSEMBLED:

Aye.

COLONEL ROWAN:

Thank you very much and thank you to all the members of the Technical Committee and the other supporting elements.

REPORTER'S PAGE

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Wanda Capdeville, CCR
Certified Court Reporter

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